Woman's appeal of perjury conviction is denied. PAGE 2
Bojobo Doll Co.: A business with a vision. PAGE 3

Hafa Adai!

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Rota teacher is 2017 TOY

By BEA CABRERA
bea_cabrera@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Antinelle Santos is the Public School System's 2017 Teacher of the Year.

The Dr. Rita Hocog Inos High School teacher was bestowed the honor during last Wednesday's Education Day celebrations at the Hopwood Middle School.

The award came as a surprise for Santos as she didn't expect to win.

"Honestly, the award was so unexpected and teaching is a very humbling profession. I know teachers go beyond their call of duty but it is something that we work hard on for our children and for the other people we work for and work with," she said.

See ROTA on Page 4

Antinelle Santos of Dr. Rita Hocog Inos High School, far right, is flocked by co-teachers after being named the PSS Teacher of the Year for 2017-2018 at the 29th Education Day held Thursday at Hopwood Middle School in Chalan Kanoa. BEA CABRERA

Community urged to help with CW issue

By BEA CABRERA
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REPORTER

A business alliance created specifically to address the CNMI's workforce issues believes that legislation must be crafted at the level of the U.S. Congress to make provisions of Public Law 110-229 more viable for the CNMI economy.

The Northern Marianas Business Alliance Corp. came to this conclusion during Wednesday's Social Economic Development Council meeting at the Office of the Governor on Capital Hill.

The meeting was hastily

See HELP on Page 4

'Risk losing tourists now or risk losing CW-1 later'

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

In light of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services plan to wind down the foreign worker program by 2019, the situation for Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) back in 2014 boiled down to a choice between potentially losing the CNMI parole program for tourists or losing the CW-1 program this 2019.

Sablan said he eventually chose to save the parole program for tourists instead of asking U.S. Congress for an extension on the CW program beyond 2019.

Sablan gave this explanation in a hastily called press conference last Wednesday. "[It's] a little more complicated than this legislator understands," referring to local lawmakers who have criticized him in the wake of the USCIS announcement.

See RISK on Page 4

DPL official affirms receiving $20K consultancy fee

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» But denies racketeering

Department of Public Lands official Ramon S. Salas affirms that he was sent on a trip to South Korea where he met several financial backers of an investor, and that he later got paid $20,000 as a consultancy fee when he was no longer employed with DPL.

The investor, Il Hwan Kim, and his former company, KSA Corp., have filed a racketeering lawsuit against Salas and several others in federal court

In his declaration, Salas strongly denied that he ever took any actions or participated in any "pattern of racketeering activities."

Salas' declaration was filed before the U.S. District Court for the NMI in support of his

See DPL on Page 4

INSIDE

BUSINESS
Retailers look to woo shoppers from rivals as Amazon grows.
PAGE 22

WORLD
Zimbabwe's incoming leader returns home to cheers.
PAGE 25

LIFE & STYLE
Denzel Washington, a seven-time Oscar nominee, is still trying to get better.
PAGE 28

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Local

Woman's appeal of perjury conviction is denied

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit has dismissed the appeal of a woman who was convicted of perjury and sentenced to 21 months in prison.

Ninth Circuit judges William Cameron Canby Jr., Stephen S. Trott, and Susan P. Graber pointed out that Alexandra Castro Macabalo had waived the right to appeal her conviction.

"Because the record discloses no arguable issue as to the validity of the waiver, we dismiss Macabalo's appeal as to her conviction," the Ninth Circuit judges said.

With respect to Macabalo's sentence, the judges said an independent review of the record shows no arguable grounds for relief, except that the written district court judgment is inconsistent with the district court's oral pronouncement of a 20-month sentence.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona's written judgment reflects a 21-month custodial sentence.

Accordingly, the judges affirmed Macabalo's sentence but remanded the case to the district court to make the judgment consistent with the oral pronouncement.

Macabalo was accused of enticing a 15-year-old girl to engage in sex for cash with a then-CNMI government official in 2013. She pleaded guilty to perjury. She was given credit for time served.

Macabalo appealed from the district court's judgment and challenged her conviction and sentence.

Attorney Bruce Berline was counsel for Macabalo. Benjamin Petersburg served as co-counsel.

Berline stated in the sentencing memorandum that Macabalo admitted to lying while testifying during a grand jury proceeding involving her uncle, Raymond Roberto.

"Ms. Macabalo has admitted to using methamphetamine and that this played a role in the commission of the offense," the defense lawyer said.

Under the plea deal, the sentencing guideline range is 15 to 21 months imprisonment.

An information charged Macabalo with one count of perjury for allegedly lying to a grand jury on May 20, 2014.

Federal Bureau of Investigation agents arrested Macabalo in April 2015 after a complaint was filed in court, charging her with enticement of a minor to engage in prostitution and other sexual activity. The indictment was later subsequently filed.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 10th birthday to Wayne Albert Diaz Takai! May God bless you with many more years to come. Greetings come from the family.

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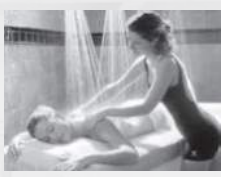

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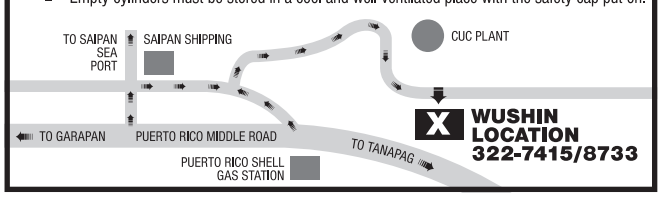

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A tourist checks out the bojobo wish dolls being sold at the I Love Saipan shop. The dolls are handcrafted with rare materials like the bojobo seeds that are harvested seasonally on Saipan.
KIMBERLY BAUTISTA

Bojobo Doll Co.: A business with a vision

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Casual conversation blames a portion of the drop in the number of Japanese tourist on the lack of offerings that highlight the local culture. A small business wants to change that.

Bojobo Doll Co., which specializes in small doll-like trinkets that are unique to the Marianas, hopes to do all it can to possibly entice Japanese tourists to return to Saipan.

According to Rommel Crisostomo, owner of the Bojobo Doll Co., he and his wife started their doll-making business in the early 2000s and has become a signature staple in the representation of the Commonwealth.

See BOJOBO on Page 7

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RISK

From Page 1

"In 2014, in order to continue the bar on asylum for another five years, a Republican senator insisted on taking away the secretary of Labor's authority. Without the bar on asylum, the Marianas could potentially lose all of our Chinese and Russian tourists who enter our border by parole," said Sablan.

The U.S. secretary of Labor had a discretionary authority to grant an extension or delay in the CNMI transitional period. Since the Labor secretary lost the authority to grant an extension on the transitional period, the only way to obtain an extension or at is was through an act of Congress.

"So the choice was: lose half of our tourists today or let Congress make the decision to extend the transition period beyond 2019. Extending the transition period allows us to keep the CW-1 program, the CNMI-only E2 investor program, and the unlimited H-visas for the Marianas. These programs have benefitted the Marianas greatly and if you want to blame me for that, I accept the responsibility," he added.

According to Marianas Visitors Authority records, Chinese arrivals to the CNMI have been increasing since the parole program was instituted. Chinese and Russian nationals require a U.S. visa to enter any U.S. territory other than the CNMI. Here, Chinese and Russian tourists are paroled in.

CW-1 problems beyond politics

According to Sablan, the CW-1 cuts and its massive consequences is a problem where politics have no place. He said protecting the workforce and "looking after our long-term economic wellbeing" have never been issues for politics.

"These are critical policy matters that affect our entire community. Unfortunately, some people have been trying to make these issues political. I welcome the governor's call to set aside politics so we could work together; I hope everyone on his team listens. As I have said, we are stronger when we are unified. These do not apply only to the governor [and me], but to the members of the Legislature, businesses, all of us."

In a previous statement on the release of the CW-1 numerical cap for fiscal year 2018 last Nov. 20, 2017, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres requested that politics be set aside to focus on "the needs of our entire community—everyone who calls these islands home."

"This is serious business and we need all of our elected leaders of the Commonwealth to be serious as well as thoughtful and prudent in their public statements. Words have consequences," said Sablan, adding that a legislator has been citing some "factual inaccuracies."

"For example, it was a [former] Republican president—George Bush Jr.—not Barack Obama who signed Public Law 110-229," said Sablan. P.L. 110-229, or the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008, is the law that federalized immi-

See RISK on Page 7

HELP

From Page 1

called in response to U.S. Citizenship and Imigration Services implementing a 3,000-slot decrease in the CNMI-Only Transitional Worker program for fiscal year 2018.

P.L. 110-229 placed CNMI immigration under federal control and gave birth to the CW program.

At the SEDC meeting, it was agreed that the group should ask for the community's support to show Congress why a reduction in the number of CW-1 workers is not viable to the economy and why the Commonwealth needs an extension for its foreign workforce program beyond 2019.

Viola Alepuyo, legal counsel for Imperial Pacific International, Ltd. and NMBAC member, said a signature drive must be done to show community support for Delegate Gregrio Kilili C. Sablan's (Ind-MP) H.R. 5888, which calls for the extension of the federally mandated phaseout deadline from 2019 to 2029. The legislation also calls for an increase in the CW cap to 18,000.

"If you guys are willing to undertake getting signatures either with employees or community members, let us know. We need the community to speak about how this reduction is going to affect them," she said.

NMBAC chair Alex Sablan said a task force is in place to lobby the office of Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-IA) on why an extension is necessary.

"We at NMBAC is going to lobby hard with Grassley's committee…and I am sure that the governor has got meetings established as well," he said.

"So this is why we absolutely need to get there and start lobbying hard. We need legislation that we all agree on and that Sen. Lisa Murkowski and Rep. Gregorio Kilili Sablan's office can jointly submit so we can have a unified approach," he said.

The aim is to get a change of heart and a change of mind and to explain why an abrupt cut in workers could set up the CNMI as another Puerto Rico or U.S. Virgin Islands, Sablan added.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres pointed out that the CNMI is not asking for a single penny from Congress.

"We are not asking for any penny from D.C., just action not to cut 3,000 slots in the CW-1 program. We are not asking for any assistance other than help us sustain our economic growth by not cutting the numbers," he said.

"Because of the economic growth the CNMI is experiencing, for the first time in 20 years, we are paying our government debt. The government was able to pay salaries, get wage increases for the people, [and] pay our retirees," Torres added.

Alex Sablan said that getting the message out must be done quickly.

"Prior to the USCIS announcement, NMBAC met last week as it was our intent to get a delegation to go to D.C. in early December to make that door-knocking session happen and whatever data we get from the government, businesses, employers, and the community," he said.

"We are hopeful to use this as a basis since they have a blank sheet in legislative writing and negotiate provisional changes that make sense," he added.

ROTA

From Page 1

"My belief is teaching must come from the heart. Our future will not be a better place if we do not see the goodness in people and academics comes after. Academics is very important but, at the same time, [we should] teach children to love each other and to love other people," Santos added.

Other outstanding CNMI PSS personnel and faculty for 2017-2018 are Michael Berbes from Hopwood Middle School, who bagged the Instructor of the Year award; Josephine King from Tinian Junior and Senior High School, who bagged the Teacher Aide of the Year award; Marjorie Kintol from Hopwood Middle School, who bagged the Counselor of the Year award; Natalie Hill-Beyer from Kagman Elementary School, who bagged the Librarian of the Year award; Valerie Dela Cruz from Tinian Junior and Senior High School, who bagged the Administrative Support Staff of the Year award; Faustino Tmilchol from Saipan Southern High School, who bagged the Trades and Maintenance of the Year award; and Victor Linan from Tinian Elementary School, who bagged the Pupil Transportation Staff of the Year award.

PSS also recognized students for topping various categories at this year's Education Day. Danica Atalig from Oleai Elementary School won the 2017 Education Month theme contest, Prince Muniz from Dandan Middle School won the 2017 Education Month logo design contest, and Tolia Quitugua from Sinapalo Elementary School won the elementary essay contest.

In his speech, acting Education commissioner Glen Muña said that PSS has seen many changes in the last 29 years and many of those changes came with great adversity, but this showed PSS personnel's reliance on each other.

"One thing I am sure of that no other government agency in the CNMI can match is the resilience of the educators of the PSS. Despite the changes, we continue to remain focused on our mission," he said.

"We persevere because the lives of the children in our care are too precious to give up on. As we move into our 30th year, we will continue to stand together, overcome challenges, and continue to give the children of the CNMI our best," Muña added.

CNMI Board of Education chair Marylou Ada also lauded the CNMI's public school teachers for their efforts in nurturing the young minds of the islands' youth.

"Every morning 10,000 children in the Commonwealth wake up energized, excited to go to school. I asked one student why and he said 'he loves learning' and another one said 'I love my teacher.' This is what makes parents happy, knowing that their child is getting the best education at PSS," she said.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres encouraged teachers to take pride in their profession and encouraged them to keep the children's environment conducive to learning.

The program was packed with song and dance numbers presented by faculty from each schools, student recognitions, and school and teacher awards.

DPL

From Page 1

motion for summary judgment in the racketeering lawsuit filed by Kim and KSA Corp.

Salas said he first met Kim, through Jeon Eun Taek. He said he and Taek are both members of the Saipan Golf Association.

Salas recalled that sometime in mid-2007, Taek stopped by his place of work at DPL to inquire about the leasing of a public land in San Antonio.

He said Taek mentioned then that he knew of somebody who was interested in leasing the San Antonio land.

Salas said he brought Taek to the planning section of DPL for them to assist him.

He said several days later after Taek's inquiry, Taek brought Kim to DPL, where he first met him.

Salas said as time went on, Hun Jin An started showing up at DPL, at times accompanying Kim and Taek.

At Kim's request, Salas said he arranged a meeting with Kim and then-governor Benigno R. Fitial to discuss his investment plans in the CNMI.

In that meeting, Salas said Kim assured Fitial that he had the financial means and resources to lease the San Antonio property and to develop it by building a hotel.

To verify Kim's financial means and resources, Salas said he was sent on a trip to South Korea, along with Taek, where he met several individuals introduced to him as Kim's financial backers.

Upon his return to Saipan, Salas said he informed Fitial and then-DPL secretary John S. Del Rosario that it appeared to him that Kim has the financial means to pursue his investment plans, specially the lease of the San Antonio property and construction of a hotel on that property.

On Aug. 1, 2007, DPL entered into a lease agreement with Kim and KSA Corp. for the San Antonio property.

Several months later, Salas left his job with DPL as his contract, which ended in November 2007, was not renewed.

Salas said that, in mid-2008, Kim and KSA Corp., through An, approached him to see if he could assist them in their planned investment as a consultant.

Salas said he informed An that, because of his previous employment with DPL, he had concerns about assisting them with respect to any DPL issues.

He said he eventually sought legal advice about this and, based on the advice, he felt comfortable in assisting Kim and KSA. Thus, Salas said, he entered into an agreement to be a consultant for Kim and KSA on Sept. 12, 2008.

Salas disclosed that although he was supposed to be paid a consultancy fee of $60,000, he was only paid $20,000 for work he had done as he was informed that the agreement was being terminated for lack of funds.

Salas showed a copy of the consultancy agreement.

DPL re-employed Salas in October 2011.

He said that sometime after his return to DPL, Kim showed up at DPL. This time, he was inquiring about leasing public lands in Marpi. Salas said he directed Kim to the DPL planning section.

Salas denied that he conspired with any of the defendants in this case or any unknown persons against Kim and KSA or knew of any conspiracy to defraud them, much less to violate the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organization Act.

Attorney Brien Sers Nicholas, counsel for Salas, stated in the motion for summary judgment that the undisputed facts of this case clearly prove that Salas could not have committed any conspiracy to defraud Kim and KSA or much less violate RICO.

Nicholas said Kim and KSA allege that Salas along with An, Taek, and Joann P. Hensley formed an "association-in-fact," which Kim and KSA further allege as being the RICO enterprise in this case.

Yet, Nicholas said, several paragraphs later in the complaint, Kim and KSA allege that the RICO enterprise was formed by An, Taek, Hensley to defraud Kim and KSA, to the exclusion of Salas.

"Simply put, it is undisputed that no facts exist to support plaintiffs' claim that Salas was part of the RICO enterprise in this case," the lawyer pointed out.

Nicholas said there exists no evidence whatsoever to support the totally unfounded claims by Kim and KSA that Salas received any bribe or extorted money from the plaintiffs.

The federal court had already dismissed former House speaker Oscar M. Babauta as one of the defendants in this case.

Last March, Kim and KSA Corp., through counsel Jennifer Dockter, requested the court to issue a default judgment against Salas' co-defendants An, Taek, and Joann P. Hensley.

Dockter said An, Taek, and Hensley continue to fail to file any answer or other responsive pleadings.

Kim and KSA alleged in their lawsuit that the defendants conspired to steal millions of dollars from him for his hotel and casino project on Saipan.

Kim and KSA Corp. sued the defendants pursuant to RICO and other causes of action.

The plaintiffs asked the court to hold the defendants liable to pay them damages, court costs, and attorney's fees.

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MVA promotions face threats

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

At a total of over 653,000 tourists, the CNMI tourism industry has seen a significant increase of 30 percent in visitor arrivals in fiscal year 2017 alone. But that record-high figure could plummet due to funding issues and the proliferation of illegal bed-and-breakfast operations.

Cavanagh

Indeed, fiscal year 2017 has been a banner year for the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, according to HANMI chair Gloria Cavanagh.

During a recent Rotary Club of Saipan meeting, Cavanagh said the number of unsold rooms went down in fiscal year 2017.

"The projected annual occupancy weighted averages is 91.7 percent [in 2017] compared to 87.63 percent in 2016," she said.

According to Cavanagh, the tourism industry may be growing by leaps and bounds, but the Marianas Visitors Authority still struggles to promote Saipan as a destination due to lack of funding as its coffers continue to be raided by the Legislature.

In fiscal year 2013, MVA was only limited to $3 million. Because this was not enough, HANMI approached the House of Representatives' Committee on Tourism and was able to convince it to raise the hotel occupancy tax from 10 percent to 15 percent, Cavanagh explained.

The results of the increase were outstanding, Cavanagh said. Eighty percent of the increase was given to MVA for promotion and enhancement purposes. That didn't last long, though.

"The results were outstanding. So outstanding that the first chance the government had, they started taking from these funds," she said.

First, the original $3 million was completely taken away, Cavanagh said.

Now, in fiscal year 2018, another $1.6 million was taken from MVA's funding.

It just seems that MVA is the easiest source for the government to take funds from. "When [the government has] large expenses, they just believe MVA's money is always the solution," Cavanagh said.

It appears the purpose of why MVA exists is lost on the government. "I don't think that they really understand what MVA is in charge of or what it needs that money for. They possibly think its too much money," she said.

"They," in this case refers to the CNMI's lawmakers.

Also threatening the MVA's budget are illegal bed-and-breakfast operations, Cavanagh said.

Because B&Bs are more preferred by both airlines and tourists due to their lower rates, this could mean a loss of revenue for HANMI that will directly impact MVA.

The Commonwealth Zoning earlier said there are currently only 63 B&B businesses registered with the board, yet there are a total of 264 places on Saipan registered on the Airbnb website.

Cavanagh said this is a concern because unregistered B&B don't pay the hotel occupancy tax.

"We are not talking about closing them down, just come into compliance," she said.

RISK

From Page 4

gration in the CNMI. The law also included the establishment of the CW-1 program.

"Whether intentional or not, this legislator's inaccuracies are misleading and potentially damaging to our collective efforts to craft long-term solutions to the important policy challenges we face today. When elected leaders of the Commonwealth attack or disparage the good faith efforts of other members of the Congress…that does not help our efforts," he said.

Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan), who is eyeing Sablan's seat in the 2018 elections, is highly critical of Sablan.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

BOJOBO

From Page 3

The unique bojobo wish dolls are unique souvenirs made from high quality products like bojobo seeds and coconuts and the process of making one doll could take up to an hour, depending on the size.

These dolls are currently sold in popular tourist shops like I Love Saipan, Joeten Supermarkets, ABC Store, and more.

Crisostomo said their business thrived during the days when the majority of tourists were Japanese.

Today, the dolls are still selling but not as much as it used to during the days when Japanese tourists visited the island in droves.

In a previous article, *Saipan Tribune* quoted Japanese Consul Kinji Shinoda as saying that, from a tourist point of view, he understands why Japanese tourists no longer visit Saipan as much.

Shinoda said that when he visits a place, he loves to bring home trinkets that represent the place he has visited.

Unfortunately, upon visiting the numerous souvenir shops here, he was saddened to see that he could only find basic souvenir items like shirts, sandals, etc.

Shinoda said he encourages the islands to let the rich indigenous culture shine and for the islands to sell the culture, along with the scenery.

According to Crisostimo, that is what he and his wife strives to do. The bojobo dolls are not only sold in stores to possibly bring back the Japanese tourist market, but entice other markets like the Chinese and Korean. He said they have also started working with tour agencies to offer bojobo making demos as an activity.

Crisostimo said he, his wife, and his staff will continue to produce quality bojobo dolls because it's not only their business, but because it's one of the rare souvenirs that are authentically made in the Commonwealth and they wish to continue to preserve its existence.

The Bojobo Doll Shop in Susupe is accepting both tourists and local residents to come and experience how the unique bojobo wish dolls are made.

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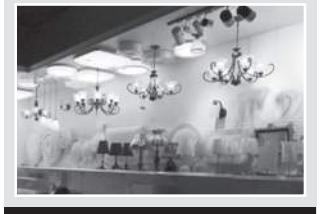
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Public education benefits from IPI contributions

The funds used to buy one of the largest tranche of instructional materials for the Commonwealth's public schools was sourced from the economic contributions of Imperial Pacific International.

For a non-revenue generating public education institution, the $5.54 million that the Public School System received from the contributions of Imperial Pacific is a huge investment.

It further augmented the school district's goal to produce college-and-career ready graduates.

This is also timely for a school district that strives to continually keep up with the challenges of, among others, adequately funding programs and services, burgeoning student population, and the need to hire and retain classroom teachers, staff and personnel, to name a few.

The $5.54 million was specifically used to acquire books in language arts, math, science and social studies for the CNMI's public elementary, middle and high school students.

This acquisition was also the single largest investment made by PSS using local funds.

The funding was particularly sourced from the business gross revenue tax paid by Imperial Pacific for calendar year 2016.

Last year, the central government identified $47 million in additional revenues that were available for earmarking. It became the first budget supplement for the CNMI government in nearly a decade.

In all, PSS received $10.241 million from the first supplemental budget. This represents 22-percent of the total $47 million that were identified as additional resources by the central government.

The $5.54 million for primary instructional materials is 54.11 percent of PSS' share of the government's first budget supplement.

How it was invested

For this year, a second budget supplement is expected soon—and will be generated from the same source: fees and taxes paid by Imperial Pacific International.

The school district will tap into this second cycle of additional revenue to fund and support the operation, programs/initiatives and services of the PSS.

PSS, as the largest government instrumentality, serves over 10,000 students in 20 campuses on Saipan, Tinian and Rota. It also manages 10 Head Start and Early Head Start centers spread throughout the islands.

PSS also employs close to 1,000 staff and personnel, including teachers and counselors.

Meanwhile, when PSS received its first budget supplement from Imperial Pacific's fees and taxes, the money went immediately to seven critical areas and programs that were in dire need of funding support.

That allowed PSS to maintain its level of services for all of public education stakeholders on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Along with the $5.541 million, a separate $2.7 million was used to pay for PSS' balance owed the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

Another $100,000 was used to pay for the outstanding balance owed meal vendors, $100,000 for school repairs and maintenance, and $300,000 that was equally divided betwwen Rota's Sinapalo Elementary School and Dr. Rita Inos Jr. Sr. High School. The latter was for operation, furniture and fixtures, and repair of benches and facilities.

A total of $500,000 was for Tinian public schools' perimeter fence replacement and other repairs at the Tinian Elementary School and Jr. Sr. High School.

A separate $1 million from Imperial Pacific's economic contributions was used to buy five school buses. The purchase augmented the free transportation service PSS provides its students.

With the increasing cost of providing quality free education, the central government will continue to look toward opportunities that will support the needs of its populace.

Imperial Pacific, the Hong Kong-based investment giant, meanwhile remains committed toward the economic revival of the islands. (***PR***)

MIFICPA to host Excel workshop

The Marianas Institute of Filipino CPAs and Accountants is inviting all members to this year's workshop on advanced Microsoft Excel. The workshop will be on Dec. 2, 2017, a Saturday, from 8:30am to 12pm, at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. Registration starts at 8am.

There will be a $5 fee to cover incidentals. Non-members are welcome for a $15 seminar fee. Seats are available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Most importantly, please bring your own laptop.

For reservation and more details, check the MIFICPA Facebook page or call or email any of the officers: Angie Mamaril at 783-1857 (angiehmamaril@yahoo.com); Lois Manese at 286-8663 (eloisa_manese@yahoo.com); Cris Bucalig at 287-0945 (cris_bong@yahoo.com) or Gloria Balila at 989-6284 (mgmbalila@yahoo.com). ***(PR)***

TRO issued to remove barriers in front of poker arcade

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Wesley M. Bogdan has directed a couple to remove wooden barriers from in front of a building that houses a poker arcade in San Jose.

Bogdan ordered Byoong Seob Choi and his wife, Sin Hye Kang, to allow open access for Sunny Poker customers.

Bogdan issued the temporary restraining order against the couple at the request of Z&L Corp., which runs Sunny Poker at the Sablan Building in San Jose.

Z&L Corp., through Mark A. Scoggins, wants the court to convert the TRO later into a preliminary injunction.

A preliminary injunction hearing was set for last Wednesday.

Choi and Kang were directed not to interfere with Z&L's ability to use and occupy Sunny Poker at the Sablan Building.

Bogdan also stopped Choi and Kang from taking any action that will interfere with Z&L Corp. and its agents and its customers' ability access the poker arcade. Z&L claims that the couple's action is harming its interest in the poker arcade.

According to Scoggins in the complaint, on Aug. 21, 2017, Z&L entered into a one-year commercial lease agreement with Sablan Enterprises to extend the company's use of space at the Sablan Building from Oct. 15, 2017, to Oct. 15, 2018. Z&L paid several months for the space in advance.

Scoggins said that, on Oct. 9, 2017, Kang acquired a long-term leasehold interest in the Sablan Building.

Choi also has an interest in the leasehold in the Sablan Building, Scoggins said.

By letter dated Oct. 20, 2017, the lawyer said, Choi and Kang claimed that Z&L's "right to possession of the premises has terminated" and demanded that the company vacate by Nov. 1, 2017.

Last Nov. 1, Z&L responded to the demand letter in writing, and informed the couple of Z&L's lawful interest and intention to remain in the space.

Scoggins said no more than one hour after the letter was sent, defendants caused the electricity to be disconnected from Sunny Poker business.

Scoggins said the defendants also erected a physical barrier—a wooden structure blocking the parking lot and the entrance to Sunny Poker.

He said the barriers include a "Danger—Keep Out" sign directly in front of the poker shop entrance, and yellow caution tape down the length of the wooden structure.

Scoggins said Z&L demanded that power be restored but defendants responded that the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. had advised that the breaker box needed to be replaced.

Scoggins said inquiry with CUC showed this to be false, and that shutoff of the power had been at the defendants' request.

Scoggins said power was restored to the poker room later in the afternoon of the same day, but despite repeated demands, the physical barrier and yellow caution tape has still not been removed.

Scoggins said it is defendants' intention to evict Z&L and Sunny Poker.

Scoggins said that Z&L was forced to close the poker shop on the night of Nov. 1, 2017, in order to mitigate its damages.

Choi and Kang have claimed that they raised the barrier for safety reasons. Z&L does not believe it.

Owners of Tinian Dynasty didn't reach settlement with former foreign workers

The owners of the now-defunct Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino did not reach a settlement deal with hundreds of foreign workers who sued them over the denial of their CNMI-only Transitional Worker (CW-1) petitions.

According to the minutes of the settlement conference before U.S. District Court for the NMI Magistrate Judge Heather L. Kennedy on Monday, the parties did not reach a settlement.

Both sides were instructed to email the court between 9am and 12pm today, Friday, about any settlement proposal.

There will be a telephone conference on Monday, Nov. 27, at 9am.

At Monday's settlement conference, attorney Samuel Mok appeared with plaintiff Eric F. Dona and 12 other co-plaintiffs.

Attorney Daniel Guidotti appeared as counsel for Tinian Dynasty owners Hong Kong Entertainment (Overseas) Investment Ltd. and Mega Stars Overseas Limited. Also present was HKE chair Chun Wai Chan.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona has recused herself from the lawsuit.

In their lawsuit, Dona and co-plaintiffs alleged that the owners and management of Tinian Dynasty lied to them about their immigration status—that they were legally authorized to work despite the denial of their CW-1 petitions. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and first lady Diann Torres donate turkeys and desserts to the Salvation Army's soup kitchen yesterday to share in the day of Thanksgiving.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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Senate JGL panel looking to collaborate on DPS oversight

By ERWIN ENCINARES
Erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORT

Sen. Steve Mesngon (R-Rota), who chairs the Senate Judiciary, Government, and Law Committee, said he was advised to collaborate with the House Judicial and Governmental Operations Committee on a planned oversight hearing for the Department of Public Safety.

Though a date has yet to be set, Mesngon told *Saipan Tribune* that he was advised by Senate President Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan) to collaborate with House JGO committee chair Rep. Ivan A. Blanco (R-Saipan), who has already initiated talks with DPS Commissioner Robert Guerrero.

"The president…advised me that I need to confer with the House [JGO]. I had a brief talk with the [DPS] commissioner and I told him we had to sit down and talk about the letter from Sen. Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota)," said Mesngon.

"We agreed to have that meeting with the committee. I might change the course right now because the president is advising me to meet with the House JGO chair Rep. Ivan Blanco (R-Saipan) because the House earlier initiated a meeting with the commissioner, so I am going to check with [Blanco] on how far they are already in in discussions," he added.

Manglona wrote both Mesngon and Blanco in early November, requesting that an oversight hearing be held on DPS due to many unsolved cases, which include murder cases, missing persons, and drug-related crimes.

In a previous statement, Blanco said he has already met with his House JGO committee and his members have agreed that an oversight hearing must be held on DPS.

Last November, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said in a statement that he is "genuinely concerned" about the public's safety.

Press secretary Kevin Bautista earlier said in a statement that the governor has already initiated talks with the DPS commissioner about his concerns. The statement noted that the governor is also including the Attorney General's Office in the discussions.

Blanco told *Saipan Tribune* last week that he believes the oversight hearing is needed on DPS and other agencies.

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CCA film screening

As part of its Oral Cancer Health Forum Program, the Commonwealth Cancer Association is inviting the public to its screening of the oral cancer documentary titled *Chew* on Tuesday, Nov. 28, at 6pm at the American Memorial Park Visitors Center theater. ***(PR)***

Free seminar on record keeping for farmers

The CNMI Small Business Development Center and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency will be offering a free business seminar called "The Benefits of Record Keeping for Farmers with USDA Farm Service Agency" at the Northern Marianas Technical Institute on Dec. 4, 2017, from 5pm to 6:30pm. To register, contact the CNMI SBDC office at 664-3018 or visit http://pisbden.ecenterdirect.comievents. ***(PR)***

Free seminar on microloan with USDA-FSA

The CNMI Small Business Development Center and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency will be offering a free business seminar called "The ABC's of Applying for a Microloan with USDA Farm Service Agency" at the Northern Marianas Technical Institute on Dec. 5, 2017, from 8 am to 9:30pm. To register, contact the CNMI SBDC office at 664-3018 or visit http://pisbdcn.ecenterdirect.comievents. ***(PR)***

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Papua New Guinea officials pressure refugees to leave camp

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—Papua New Guinea authorities on Thursday ratcheted up pressure on more than 300 asylum seekers to abandon a decommissioned immigration camp, where refugees reported their shelters, beds and other belongings have been destroyed.

Police Chief Superintendent Dominic Kakas said 50 police and immigration officials entered the Manus Island camp Thursday morning and persuaded 35 of the 378 men there to leave for alterative accommodation in the nearby town of Lorengau.

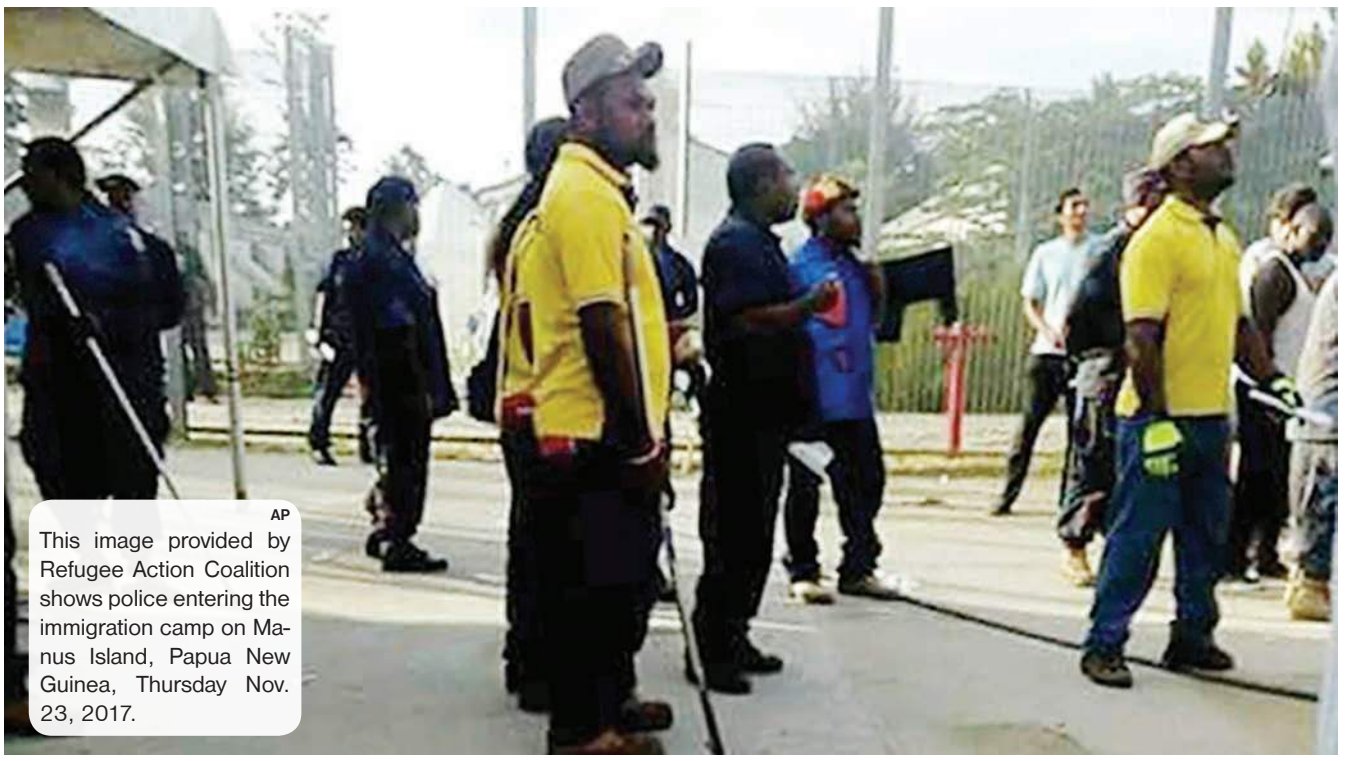
Shen Narayanasamy, a human rights campaigner for the activist group GetUp!, estimated 40 men left Manus by bus and some of those reported being forced to leave.

Water, power and food supplies ended when the Manus camp officially closed on Oct. 31, based on the Papua New Guinea Supreme Court's ruling last year that Australia's policy of housing asylum seekers there was unconstitutional.

But asylum seekers fear for their safety in Lorengau because of threats from local residents.

Kakas said force would not be used to empty the squalid Manus Island camp.

"There's no raid. It's an ongoing negotiation with the refugees," Kakas told The Associated Press. "It's not an eviction exercise. We're telling them to move because there's water, food and proper shelter on the other side."



AP

This image provided by Refugee Action Coalition shows police entering the immigration camp on Manus Island, Papua New Guinea, Thursday Nov. 23, 2017.

Kakas denied reports from within the camp that authorities burnt and destroyed asylum seekers' property in an effort to persuade them to leave.

Australian Immigration and Border Protection Minister Peter Dutton revealed in a radio interview the police operation in the camp.

"It's outrageous that people are still there and they've trashed the facility. They're living in squalor," Dutton told Sydney Radio 2GB.

"But there is an operation involving police at the center this morning. It's like the tenant that won't move out of the house when you've built a new house for them to move into," he added.

Sudanese refugee Abdul Aziz Adam tweeted that police arrested Iranian refugee and journalist Behrouz Boochan.

Boochan had earlier tweeted: "They are destroying everything. Shelters, tanks, beds and all of our belongings."

"Right now are shouting at us to leave the prison camp," he added.

Kakas said he had no information about any arrests.

Amnesty International cited reports of immigration officials entering camp them armed with sticks and knives.

"The risks of serious injury if the authorities use force now is completely foreseeable," the London-based rights group's researcher Kate Schuetze said in a statement.

Authorities have previously made conditions tougher in the camp by emptying drinking water tanks and removing shelters. Deadlines to abandon the camp have passed without authorities taking action.

Australia pays Papua New Guinea, its nearest neighbor, and the tiny Pacific nation of Nauru to hold thousands of asylum seekers from Africa, the Middle East and Asia who have attempted to reach Australian shores by boat since mid-2013.

The United States has agreed to resettle up to 1,250 refugees among of them under a deal struck by former President Barack Obama's administration that President Donald Trump has reluctantly decided to honor. So far, only 54 have been accepted by the United States.

Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull dismissed asylum seekers' fears for their safety in Lorengau, accusing them of trying to pressure Australia into resettling them by refusing to move from Manus.

"They think that ... in some way they can pressure the Australian government to let them come to Australia. Well, we will not be pressured. We will not outsource our migration policy to people smugglers," Turnbull told reporters.

"People on Manus should go to the alternative places of safety with all the facilities they need, they should do so peacefully and they should do so in accordance with the legal directions of Papua New Guinea," he added.

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Seven fishermen safe after being rescued

HONOLULU—Seven fishermen are safe, Wednesday, after their Japanese-flagged 50-foot fishing boat, the *Gyotoku Maru No. 1*, reportedly capsized 218 miles southwest of Palau.

The fishermen were rescued and transferred safely by another fishing vessel to General Santos City in the Philippines.

"We're incredibly relieved these men are safe and back on dry land," said Lt. Cmdr. Josh Empen, the search and rescue mission coordinator at Sector Guam. "Special thanks to all our partners with the Department of Defense, Japanese coast guard, the government of Palau, Pacific Mission Aviation, and AMVER who quickly brought their resources together in an effort to locate these fishermen in such a remote part of the Pacific."

At 4:20am, (Hawaii standard time), watchstanders at Coast Guard Sector Guam received relayed notification from the Japanese coast guard regarding the current status of the *Gyotoku Maru No. 1* fishermen.

The fishermen reported their vessel sank after a collision with another fishing vessel. All seven of the fishermen were rescued by crewmembers aboard the second fishing vessel and brought to the Philippines.

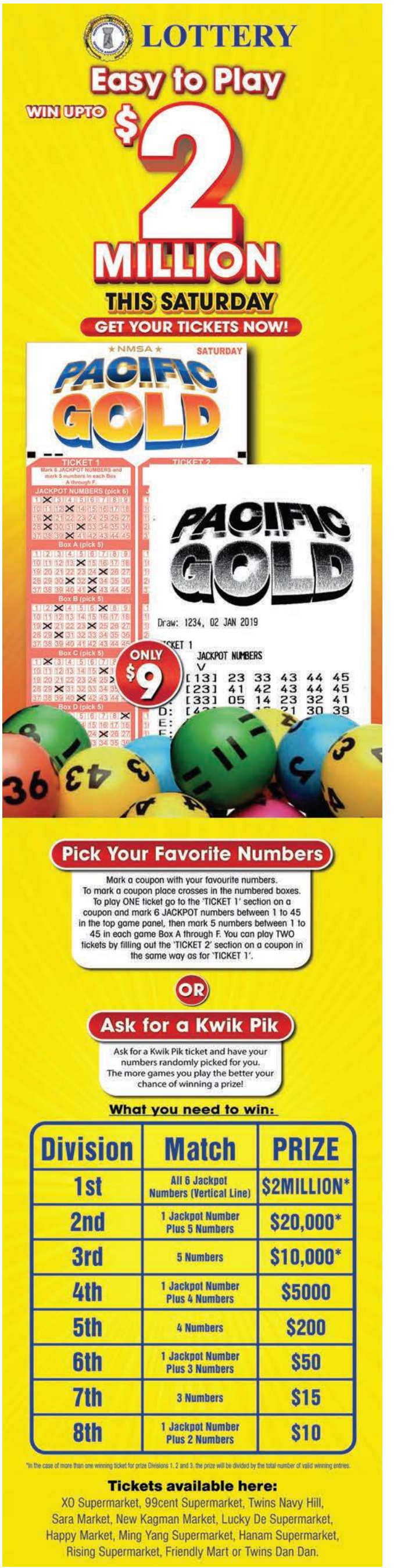
Watchstanders at Coast Guard Sector Guam initially received an emergency positioning indicating radio beacon alert hit at 9:18pm, Sunday (Hawaii standard time), alerting them to the possible distress situation, prompting the search effort.

Sector Guam watchstanders confirmed an EPIRB hit and registration of the fishing vessel with the Mission Coordination Center in Japan.

The *Gyotoku Maru No. 1* is reportedly a longline tuna vessel registered with the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission.

The Coast Guard 14th District has responsibility for search and rescue across 12.2 million square miles of the Pacific Ocean to include the main Hawaiian Islands, Guam, Saipan, and American Samoa extending out in all directions.

The U.S. Coast Guard is the world's premier maritime search and rescue agency ready to answer the call for help, even in the vast and remote regions of the Pacific Ocean. ***(USCG)***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GET YOUR TICKETS NOW!
★NMSA★ SATURDAY
PACIFIC GOLD
TICKET 1
JACKPOT NUMBERS (pick 6)
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PACIFIC GOLD
Draw: 1234, 02 JAN 2019
ONLY $9
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[13] 23 33 43 44 45
[23] 41 42 43 44 45
[33] 05 14 23 32 41
Pick Your Favorite Numbers
Mark a coupon with your favourite numbers.
To mark a coupon place crosses in the numbered boxes.
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Ask for a Kwik Pik ticket and have your numbers randomly picked for you.
The more games you play the better your chance of winning a prize!
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Tickets available here:
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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Let the Manson obsession die

Charles Manson's bizarre plan to ignite a race war was unknown to Los Angeles in August 1969, as were his pathetic collection of young, rapt followers, his bizarre misinterpretation of Beatles lyrics, and Manson himself. What L.A. knew at the time was that seven people had been brutally murdered in two homes, apparently by invasion-style killers who left little clue as to motive. Crime was up nationwide, the turbulent 1960s were nearing their finale and the world seemed to have lost its mind. The city was terrified.

Manson was a rank amateur by the murderous standards set by more recent killers, who acted in single spasms of violence—without cultish followings and with motives varying from marital spite (as in the Sutherland Springs, Texas, and Rancho Tehama, Calif., shootings) to religio-political (as in the 2015 San Bernardino terrorist attack) to the still-unknown (as with the Las Vegas mass shooting in October). But in the near future the names of those killers will be recalled only sporadically, perhaps with the help of a quick Google query and a check of Wikipedia.

But we will remember Manson.

Why is that? After the murders and the trial, Manson did nothing but sit in prison—as befits someone who misused his odd power over others by directing them to commit multiple murders. He forfeited his freedom and died an inmate.

But the rest of us have kept him alive. It's hard to argue that Manson's notoriety did him any good. Although he was sentenced to death, he was spared after a court ruling striking down California's death penalty statute. But he never got parole, despite repeated pleas for release.

Neither did any of his followers. Susan Atkins died in prison. Patricia Krenwinkel remains locked up, as does Charles "Tex" Watson. A parole board ruled in favor of Leslie Van Houten earlier this year, but it remains to be seen whether Gov. Jerry Brown will reject the decision, as he did a year ago.

The place of the Manson killings in the public mind may help ensure that none of the surviving murderers is ever paroled, leaving this nagging thought: If these killings had not resonated as they did, and were just seven scattered murders, would the five have been released long ago? Is parole actually granted or withheld based on the crimes themselves and on evidence of remorse and rehabilitation, as it should be, or instead based on the publicity that can be marshaled for or against the inmates?

It is very much a live question, as California re-envigorates its parole system in response to last year's Proposition 57. For Manson himself, though, there never was much of a question at all. He was such a troublemaker in prison that he was almost certainly never going to be released. He's been effectively dead to the world for more than 40 years, except to the extent that we insisted on keeping him alive in print, on television, in pop music and film. It would be nice if now, finally, we would just let him die.

(c)2017 *Los Angeles Times*

THE HOLIDAY SEASON BEGINS!
HURRY UP.... It's my time!
BLACK FRIDAY THURSDAY CHRISTMAS SALES!
HAPPY THANKSGIVING, everyone!
©2017 GAMBLE KING FEATURES Syndicate

As a priest, I'm thankful for sinners

By JOSHUA J. WHITFIELD
The Dallas Morning News

Joshua J. Whitfield is a pastoral administrator for St. Rita Catholic Community in Dallas. He wrote this column for The Dallas Morning News. *Readers may email him at jwhitfield@stritaparish.net.*

As a priest, part of my gig is listening to people tell me their sins.

Each week, for hours in the confessional, I simply sit and listen. They come in all sorts: the rich and the poor, the very young and the very ancient, the scrupulous and the pharisaical, the convicted and the contrite. They all tell me their sins, at least as they imagine them. They come because they want absolution, some sort of peace, or the ease of an anxious conscience.

And to be honest, it's boring, very boring.

I've learned there's nothing so uncreative as sin, nothing so repetitive and dull. It's not sanctity or clairvoyance on my part, but I could probably tell you what your sins are before you ever opened your mouth, human sin being what it is: mindless, dumb and visionless. A palette of but a few grays, at our most sinful and stupid, we rarely create anything new. Most of us look pathetic naked. It's a humiliating truth.

But here's the strange thing. The overall effect of this experience for me has been to love these people, to love humanity in general, and even this bitter, ugly world. The effect has been to love them more, not less. Hearing all this sin has given me hope.

Strange, because you'd think it would have the opposite effect, that I'd have become by now a bitter cynic, having seen the incessant endlessness of human stupidity and depravity. But that's not the case. Rather, I find hope, like faint green growth after a fire or the faint blue of earliest dawn.

Maybe it's the parent in me, the priest in me, or both. Ultimately, I believe it's the Father's love, but I don't want to turn my nonbelieving readers off. There is something to it, though, something strange and irrational, something above cause and effect. Something more than sympathy, this love and this hope I feel whenever people tell me their worst most pathetic deeds. It's something beautiful, something new.

Now this is a column, not a pulpit, and I don't want to preach. I simply want to say that because of my experience, I think there's reason for hope: for me, for you, for all of us. I'm speaking in religious terms, and I know that's difficult for many, but what I'm talking about is also social virtue, hope meant for all of us.

In this world of bitterness and wickedness, conflict and sin, this angry world of pathetic hellish tedium, there is still reason for hope: not immediately in politicians or elections, of course, nor in any movements or philosophies, but in us. That is, in our consciences, which are still sensitive in most of us and which have yet to be explained away.

Pick your villain, whomever it is. Name a problem, whatever it is. In each there's still truth, in each a good and an evil at war. The selfish git who knows no one likes him; the everyday bigot who knows he's trapped by fear; the fleshly addict of whatever kind _ each is in a battle with himself, each worthier of pity and love than hate and ridicule. This is our real democracy, our common but varied criminality. Like our nature, it's what makes us alike, all either hypocrites or friends together. And it's what we should remember the next time we excoriate our usual favorite fools.

Because for all the tabloids, Twitter-shaming and hashtag righteousness, it's the only thing that will help us make the world better, the truth that we're all sinners, that even in the worst there is still some good, some possibility of redemption. Again, translate this into secular language if you must; it's true however you write it. And it's the only truth that can help us get past the bitterness, this truly hellish tit-for-tat, this endless fight for the last word, the truth absent the abyss of social media, the truth of redemption.

Which is why today I'm thankful for the boring sinners who come to me, for what they teach me and give me. Sinners saintlier than I am give me hope, because they teach me that because God hasn't given up on them, then neither should I. And that no one should ever give up on anyone.

That's the beautiful lesson. And it's why, for their sin and stupidity, so much like my own, I'm grateful.

Rocket man

By ED STEPHENS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.

The rocket age is so old that a lot of kitsch and nostalgia is associated with it. This applies particularly to the 1950s. The appeal hasn't changed, but the times have. Many startup companies are in the rocket scene these days. The field is no longer the exclusive domain of legacy contractors or government departments.

So how about adding a backyard tinkerer to the mix? Well, I'm glad you asked. It leads to the best story I've seen all year. And thus we make the acquaintance of Mike Hughes, a chauffer by trade. He has built a steam-powered rocket ship out of metal scrap. He intends to launch it (with himself on board) in California this weekend.

As reported by the Associated Press, the plan is for the hop to hit around 500mph and 1,800 feet of altitude over its one-mile distance. This event is slated for Saturday, Nov. 25, California time.

The launch site, a town called Amboy, is essentially a ghost town in the Mojave desert. It used to be a stopping-off point for motorists along the old Route 66. That's some pretty harsh desert out there. An old Amboy cafe called Roy's was featured in the 1986 slasher movie *The Hitcher*, which starred Rutger Hauer as a very creepy psycho killer. If you're looking for a cinematic backdrop that conveys the remoteness of the dusty desert, Amboy is a good place.

A few miles west of Amboy is the Amboy crater. This volcanic cinder is a black hill about 250 feet high. You can hike up the thing. The last time I was there I saw a few Japanese tourists making the trek. Tourism: It never rests!

Hughes' rocket launch has invited comparisons with the legendary daredevil Evel Knievel. Knievel was famous for his bone-breaking motorcycle jumps. In 1974 he tried to jump the Snake River canyon in Idaho using, yes, a steam-powered rocket. The parachute deployed early and the jump was unsuccessful.

Knievel wasn't just a daredevil, though he was one heck of a showman. His persona was far bigger than his stunts were.

There were a whole lot of things going wrong in the U.S. during that time. Knievel's confidence and daring offered Americans a respite from the more sober realities of the usual news. I recall that he wore colorful, star-spangled outfits that were red, white, and blue, and was sort of a swashbuckling version of Elvis. Knievel passed away in 2007 at the age of 69. During the peak of his fame I was in grade school and I held that guy in awe, as did all of my friends.

I don't recall that anyone ever filled Knievel's shoes as America's daredevil. Breaking a stunt record of some sort is one thing, but Knievel's fame was obviously based on layers and layers of groundwork in media relations and promotions.

As for steam-powered rockets, I have no idea if they will forever be consigned to the stunt realm or if there's some more practical potential here. Maybe we'll set one up to launch between Saipan and Tinian some day. Anybody up for that? Great. I'll hold your beer.

As for the Amboy action, the URL for Mike Hughes' website is MadMikeHughes.com.

I don't know anything about steam-powered rockets. I am, however, no stranger to flying jets. So I'll note that 500mph at a height of 1,800 feet is a mighty fast proposition for that low of an altitude. If this all works out as envisioned, well, I'll be impressed.

Until then, at least I have something to look forward to this weekend besides eating leftover turkey sandwiches.

LITERARY NOOK

A series of selfie sonnets: Part 1

By JOEY 'PEPE BATBON' CONNOLLY
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

" My soul is rescued from the love of these trifles…"
—Anne Finch, Countess of Winchilsea (1661-1720)

A Senior Citizen Selfie

A third rate poets selfie becomes blunt "si quid mea carmina possunt" 'if my songs are of any avail'—Aeneid of Virgil

as snow grows on my head and face
I turn my eyes upward pondering space
my pleasures are many and many I have
enough to go with me till I enter my grave
beer whiskey and wine with relish I taste
and nary a drop of it do I spill or waste
if they are unavailable on music I can live
for all the inspiration and delight that it gives.
in my nights the Milky Way galaxy is displayed
what a wonderful sight when meteors invade.
in the hot tropic sun skin cancers are made
in my retirement I tend to seek out the shade.

(on Tinian, Wednesday, November 8, 2017)

Senior Selfie: Bats in my Belfry

Chimes and bells for heaven and hells of freedom
ringing out around the world oceans todo globo
deaf governments need hearing aids to hear them
sympatico sounds from followers of Quasimodo
many bats fly in the sky every evening at sunset
coming to their home above the church to roost
their fresh guano droppings give gardens a boost
rabies found among some bats strike terror in
many people while these little mammals who
pretend to be birds warm other bat fans hearts
underneath bridges and overpasses, railroad
trestles and in barns the bats across America
by the millions settle upside down and nestle
while I a bit crazy upstairs with wisdom wrestle.

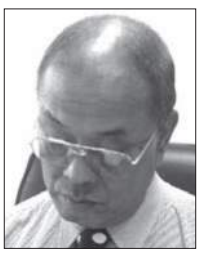
Where is Narcissism Bred

—inspired by Bassiano's song, "Tell Me Where is Fancy Bred" in The Merchant of Venice *by William Shakespeare*

Do tell please where is narcissism bred
is it in broken hearts or an egotistic head
how did it start and how is it nourished
reply reply please give us some replies
from mental mirrors in through the eyes
into a swelled head as no real surprise
answers answers some different answers
boiling in the blood a conceit filled cancer
solidified in golden glory by a gilded glancer
more more we would like to hear some more
narcissism is a nascent self revolving door
going round and round as the self sees more
when somewhat satisfied looking at themself
narcissists trophies go high on their selfish shelf

Hollow reactions

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune



John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune.

Declarations of candidacy didn't ignite any excitement from the multitude other than hollowed and indifferent reactions. The inglorious performance of incumbent candidates must have loused up the enthusiasm where folks ask apathetically: again?

Candidates have a lot on their plate, none of which is easy to untangle in the minds of the multitude. You would have to engage the Sisyphean syndrome, you know, tell a lie repeatedly until you believe it is the truth!

As a voter, it isn't hard navigating the impending storm ahead. You could instantly dismiss disoriented and irrelevant politicians with "thanks but no thanks." Listen to the rest pile up more than their share of empty promises, yes, again. Any of these guys really equipped with leadership quality? Or is it more followership?

Unfortunately, there hasn't been any quantum leap in the credentials of people entering the public domain from top to bottom. It's basically a cesspool of confused folks standing at the fence yelling "chupa lai, chupa lai, chupa lai!"

CW issue: An interesting point that Russ Mason pointed out the other day in his blog: can an administrative directive from the U.S. Homeland Security, a Cabinet level department, trump the mandates of U.S. Public Law 110-229 as approved by the U.S. Congress?

The administrative tectonic shift doesn't have the authority to overrule the mandates under the Consolidated Natural Resources Act. The only one who could do factually implement the cut is the U.S. Congress by amending or repealing pertinent provisions of the law. This hasn't happened.

Trump's nationalistic agenda of "Make America Great Again" may be a threat but he can't superficially violate the concept of separation of powers, much less what's federal law. The panicky reaction is misguided! Like Mason said, one must read the law!

Issues: People know their issues, fully clued of their elected officials' embarrassing "do-nothing" performance. Hurling more lies atop crawling lies from their Bag of Lies isn't going to help them any. But then we're used to the usual juvenile redundancy! Next year the multitude would render its verdict to keep or ditch you!

I look forward to engaging incumbents, especially on issues they've neglected in recent past. It would be an interesting discussion assuming Da Boysis could work up the courage to revisit them for serious review. If not, they'd chance a full round of "biba" blowing off embarrassing incoherence.

You need not have college credentials or a degree, but I sure would want to tinker with what's on top of your shoulders. If you have it, then you wouldn't have problems understanding and articulating issues. If not, then your time is best spent feeding the pig and chicken in your backyard. I'm equally wary of those who are clueless what the job entails. Would you brave it?

It's all a matter of attribution, vision and conviction to improve the lot of the multitude. Let's talk economics, a word you enjoy hurling publicly though unsure what the beast entails. But I'm mindful that not everyone is up to the task of coming to terms with complex issues. It requires thorough research, critical review and an understanding of what's known as an imperfect science. Is it an issue you could discuss in educated fashion?

For instance, alleged Lt. Gov. Biktot Hokog touted the so-called economic growth of 28.6 percent. Really? Did it help the 14,000-plus employees drowning in the swamp of poverty income level and below? Biktot, economic growth is good if it adds value to family income. None! You didn't see this coming, did you?

Contest: Understood the contest of what's right versus the whimsical agenda of special interest groups or call it sugar daddies. It's known in Washington as the Deep State or swamp. It's when idealistic newcomers to D.C. are cornered by special interests outlining retirement and other perks after service. The interest of "we the people" fizzles instantly.

And so a myriad of distractions from both sides of the aisle have been hurled to derail Trump's efforts on behalf of "we the people." Screw the politically correct. It's time to bring the "government of the people, by the people and for the people" into every corner of D.C. No more lies from those who won by declaring, "I've heard you" then quietly exit the backdoor after receiving their gifts from sugar daddies!

Preparation: The GOP may have the vantage point of incumbency but it is equally fragile if the opposition shatters its shield. The narrative to topple the incumbent is naturally on the side of its nemesis. It's a matter of establishing strong organization and purpose to ram home the message of failure.

I sense that some of the corrupt old warriors would be given demonstrations how to mend their torn or shredded sails for that final trip into the sunset. The politics of greed and corruption must be relegated by November of 2018! The livelihood of our people is far removed from the notion that it has the equivalence of waging loot at cockfights. Enough of this shallow arrogance!

Among young incumbents, there are a few that stand up as promising future leaders that only need appropriate grooming. Others in the fringe also have promising future if groomed properly. At least they leave the impression that they do their due diligence and aren't interested in staging shallow publicity.

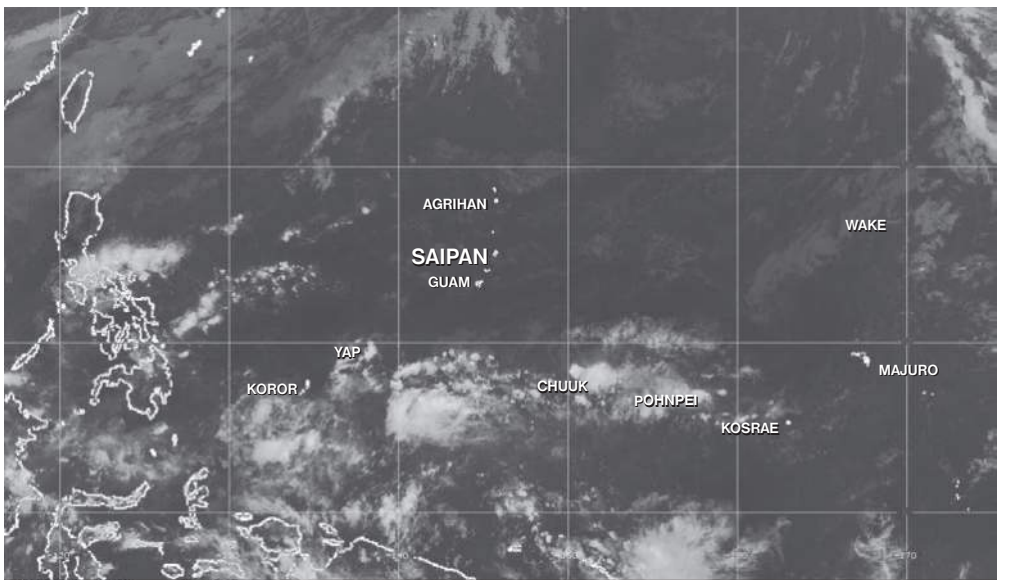
There are incumbents who recently confirmed their Halo of Switcheroo floating above their heads. This is bad news boasting instability. Nah! It isn't my cup of tea. Other incumbents are best assigned to rev up their résumé or credentials in hopes of finding a job that pays handsomely like their salaries now of some $71,000 per year. It's here when the nightmare begins.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 25 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Breezy sunday night.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲89° ▼78°	▲89° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲89° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:14 AM, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2017
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Little change made to the forecast. Did update winds with new model data. A series of high pressure areas will move off of Asia the next several days. The pressure gradient between this high pressure and lower pressure south of 10N will produce east to northeast winds of mainly between 10 to 20 mph through the forecast. A slightly stronger center of high pressure will help generate winds of 20 to 30 mph Saturday through Monday. Deep-layer moisture will vary over the course of the forecast and there could be some patchy clouds at times, although partly cloudy skies will be the predominant type. Showers will be isolated at best.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	87° / 78°
Palau	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	87° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	87° / 81°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	84° / 79°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Cloudy	70° / 61°
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	45° / 23°
Hong Kong	Cloudy	64° / 61°
Honolulu	Windy	79° / 71°
London	Showers	48° / 36°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	84° / 59°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	88° / 79°
Melbourne	Showers	86° / 66°
Miami	Thunderstorms	80° / 69°
New York	Sunny	52° / 43°
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	52° / 43°
Paris	Showers	54° / 41°
Busan	Mostly Sunny	54° / 48°
Rome	Mostly Sunny	64° / 52°
Salem	Mostly Sunny	63° / 44°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	65° / 54°
Seoul	Rain	46° / 36°
Tokyo	Sunny	57° / 39°
Washington, DC	Sunny	55° / 39°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
5:01 AM	LOW TIDE	-0.03
12:18 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.79
6:14 PM	LOW TIDE	1.21
10:15 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.52

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:23 AM	5:43 PM
Saturday	6:23 AM	5:44 PM
Sunday	6:24 AM	5:44 PM
Monday	6:24 AM	5:44 PM
Tuesday	6:25 AM	5:44 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	10:41 am	10:23 pm	-
Saturday	11:26 am	11:12 pm	-
Sunday	12:09 am	-	-
Monday	-	12:03 am	12:51 pm
Tuesday	-	12:53 am	1:33 pm

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 6, 2017

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:15pm	7:05pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	2:00am	6:05am	2, 3, 4
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
TW308	2:35am	6:20am	6, 7
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	3:40am	7:30am	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:30am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:00am	10:25am	1
JD396	4:50pm	8:15pm	4

SAIPAN-NANJING (NKG)

XP889	4:45pm	10:30pm	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	10:55am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:55am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	8:10am	7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 3, 4, 6 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6398/193	6:05pm	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7
UA6398/159	6:05pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:30am	3:00pm	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
TW307	7:45pm	1:00am+1	1, 2, 3
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
TW307	8:05pm	1:35am+1	5, 6
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
LJ651	9:10pm	2:40am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:10am	3:30pm	4
JD395	10:05pm	5:30am+1	7

NANJING (NKG)-SAIPAN

XP888	9:35pm	4:00am+1	1, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA182/6395	12:40am	8:05am	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	2, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA192/6395	10:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:20pm	12:30am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express, XP XTRA Airways; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

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Agencies race to finish Christmas Village displays

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Spearheaded by the First Lady Diann Torres Foundation, "A Christmas Village" is being staged in the courtyard of the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center.
KIMBERLY BAUTISTA

Preparations for this year's Christmas Village in Susupe is at fever pitch, in anticipation of the lighting ceremony this Sunday, Nov. 26, at 6pm.

Spearheaded by the First Lady Diann Torres Foundation, "A Christmas Village" is being staged in the courtyard of the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center.

With the help of partners and sponsors, the Christmas Village will be housing more themes this year, with slight changes to the village layout to ease traffic and expand lounging areas.

There will be live village nights every Tuesday, which will feature live performances and an array of food vendors.

Like last year, the public will be given a chance to vote for the "Best Theme." The previous year's winner was The Grinch by the Department of Public Safety.

"Many were extremely satisfied with last year's Christmas Village," said first lady Diann Torres. "It is only right that we bring it back for everyone to enjoy."

According Saipan Mayor's Office operations manager Joann Aquino, the mayor's office is participating for the second time with hopes of possibly winning for their unique cottage concept.

Aquino said the design was inspired by the folktale called *The Old Lady Who Lived in a Shoe* because, like Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, the woman had many under her guidance.

The boot also symbolizes the mayor's staff because the one thing that they all wear is boots, she said.

The mayor's office will also add touches like flowers to represent their beautification projects.

Aquino said that different agencies are racing to finish setting up their cottages before the lighting ceremony.

This year, the competition has intensified. "We're all aiming for first place… it's gotten very competitive," said Aquino.

Although all the different agencies are competing, they are also working together in a few areas like lighting.

The following are confirmed and sponsored themes: Castle by the Office of the Governor; Spongebob Squarepants by the Indigenous Affairs Office; Village bridge, stage and palm tree lights by Imperial Pacific; Christmas Beacon by Team Sadog Tasi; Santa's Bench by Kanoa Resort; Christmas ornament by IT&E; Candy Land by POI Aviation; Santa's Beach House by the Department of Public Works; Gingerbread House by TanHoldings Corp.; Moana by Rufina, LLC & Bank of Guam; The Nativity by Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan; The Old Woman Who Lived in a Shoe by the Saipan Mayor's Office; I'll Be Home for Christmas by the Public School System; Paw Patrol by the Department of Corrections; The Giving Tree by the Joeten Kiyu Public Library; Nutcracker Palace by Saipan Stevedore Co.; Christmas ornament by Bridge Capital; Christmas Jukebox by the Youth Affairs Office; a fire station by the Department of Fire & Emergency Medical Services; Angels by Demapan for Congress; Firewives by Kianna Manglona; Adrian Diaz; the nativity scene by Joeten; Sandman in the Marianas by the Marianas Visitors Authority; Willy Wonka Christmas Chocolate Factory by the Department of Public Safety; and a life-size photo stand by Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc. are the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., Skywalker Communications, Women's Affairs Office, Triple J Enterprises, and the Northern Marianas College.

In related news, the mayor's office will soon prepare for the Marianas Visitors Authority Christmas Parade.

According to Aquino, the parade is set for Dec. 16 and the mayor's office staff will start the construction of their float after the village lighting.

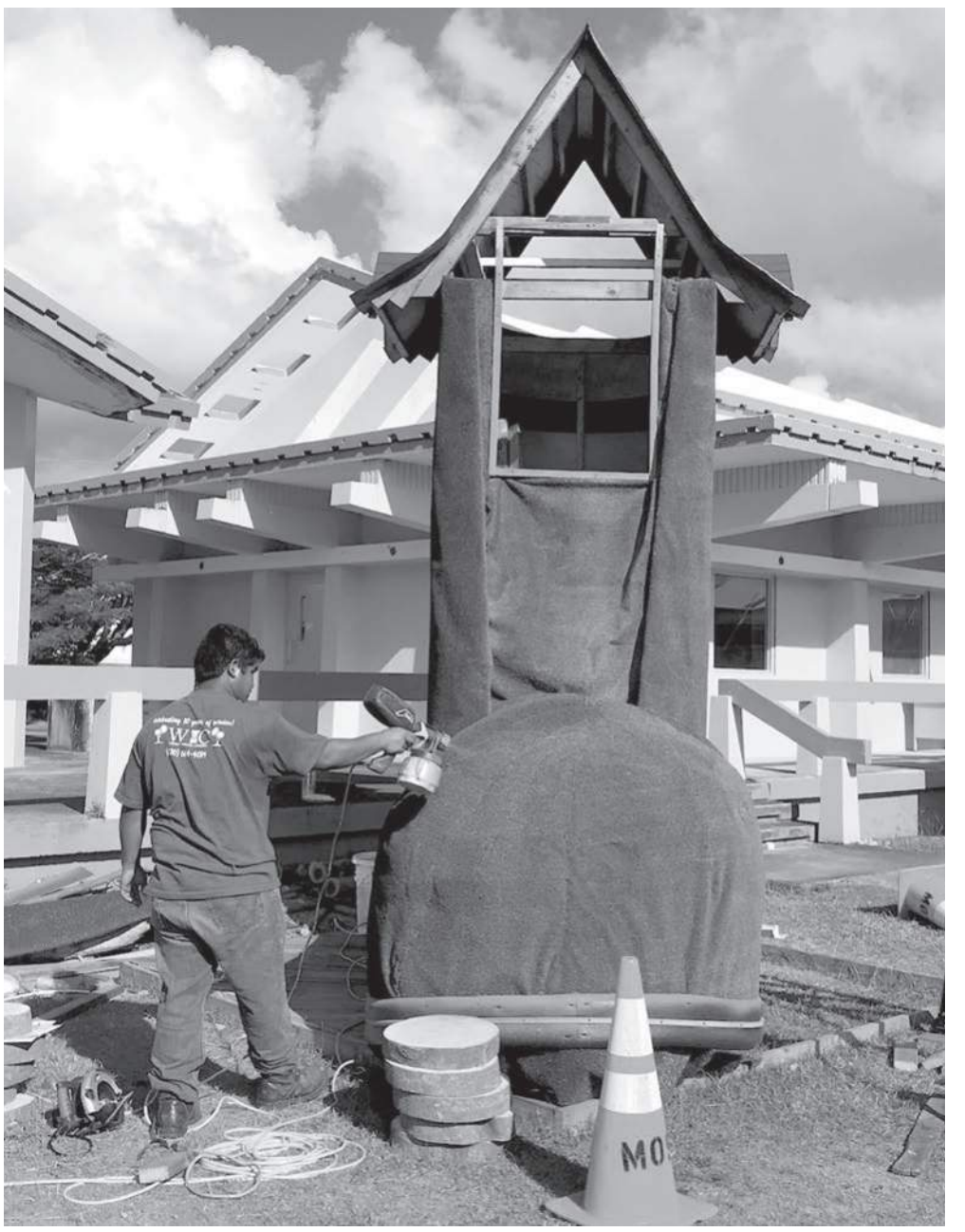
NMPASI
NORTHERN MARIANAS PROTECTION & ADVOCACY SYSTEMS, INC.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems, Inc. (NMPASI) is soliciting proposals for the financial and compliance audit for fiscal year ending **September 30, 2017**. NMPASI is designated, federally funded protection and advocacy system for persons with disabilities in the CNMI. NMPASI uses a variety of individual and systems advocacy approaches to protect people's rights, including legal and administrative remedies, legislative, policy change and trainings. Proposals for the financial and compliance audit shall be submitted to NMPASI, P.O. Box 503529, Saipan, MP 96950 no later than December 04, 2017. The audit shall be performed in compliance with the following guidelines:

1. Generally Accepted Auditing Standards;
2. OMB Circular A-133; and
3. Compliance with the general Requirements Applicable to Federal Financial Assistance Program.

Award will be based on specific factor such as prior experience, technical competence, ability to meet the deadline and price in this order. The contract for this audit will be awarded no later than **December 11, 2017**, and a final audit report shall be completed by March 16, 2018. A list of specific audit requirements and Agency's profile are available at NMPASI office, Gualo Rai. Any questions regarding this matter can be addressed to Mr. James Rayphand, Executive Director at tel 235-7273



Workers race to finish building *The Old Woman Who Lived in a Shoe* by the Saipan Mayor's Office.
KIMBERLY BAUTISTA

MCS Knights develop apps for US Congressional Challenge

Students in Mount Carmel School's Advance Placement Computer Science Principles course recently submitted computer apps to the annual U.S. Congressional App Challenge. Of the 21 entries submitted to the Office of Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan, 12 are from Mount Carmel.

The students were led by 2017 Teacher of the Year Filmah Buenaflor, who enrolled in Mobile CSP, one of the nation's leading programs in curriculum design and instructional methods for teaching APCSP.

Endorsed by the College Board and open only to a few select instructor from across the nation, the program ran for four weeks this past summer and included a weeklong immersion program in Duluth, Minnesota.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Mount Carmel School's 2017 Teacher of the Year and AP Computer Science Principles teacher Filmah Buenaflor, left, collaborates with another CSP teacher, Karen Envoy, in developing an Android app at the Mobile CSP Immersion Week held this past summer in Duluth, Minnesota.

Buenaflor used lessons and resources from Mobile CSP to help students develop their apps. The apps developed by the students cover a wide array of interests and needs in the community. Three apps are designed to help students with schoolwork.

Pocket Homework by Cassidy Torres and Tawnie Manibusan reminds students about their homework and The Thought Bubble by Joanie Paraiso helps students with their writing assignments, providing information and tips on different genre or themes. 7W by Cliare Calage is an app that allows users to plan for a week and write your thoughts/ideas.

Two apps focus on helping tourists on island. Saipan Dash by Jonelle Toskas and SeokJun Yun is a travel guide app for those who want to visit Saipan. Once downloaded, the app will give you directions even without an internet connection. Travel Guide by Nathanael Lim and Yuri Fukushi includes some recommendations on where to go and what to do while on Saipan. Translations for each button are also available.

Three gaming apps were also developed: 3 in 1 (Draw, Talk to me, and Game) developed by Eric Kiser, Starfish Tap by Jehnifer Villagomez and Quina Sablan, and Find the Latte Stone by Annalei Santos.

Other apps submitted reflect the varied interests of the Knights. Saipan Buy and Sell by Jose David Pangelinan and Christian Villacrusis allows users to post and sell items online, while CommYounity by Jeff Matthew Melchor and Erika Mendiola records Community Service hours. This will help students monitor their service hours. What's App by Shana Mafnas and Miki Takayama allows users to create and view schedule and also make some sketches, and Saipan Flora by Michelle Palacios and Darian Salas is an app about the different flowers that can be found on-island.

The Congressional App Challenge is a public effort to encourage children to learn how to code, through annual district-wide competitions hosted by members of Congress for their district. Students in participating districts code original applications for the chance to be selected for recognition by their member of Congress, win prizes, and have their work put on display in the Capitol building in Washington, D.C. The district-wide competitions, now in their third year, take place from July through early November. The CAC is executed by the congressional staff of each participating district, and coordinated by the Congressional Internet Caucus and the non-governmental sponsor of the project, the Internet Education Foundation. ***(PR)***

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
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P.O. BOX 501055, SAIPAN MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES

TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ARFF BUILDING RENOVATIONS
Project No. CPA-TA-003-16

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested firms to perform construction management (CM) services for the Tinian International Airport ARFF Building Renovations Project, No. CPA-TA-003-16, Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project is being funded by the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). This project is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Scope of Work (SOW) includes overall construction management services for the duration of the project. Details are available at CPA's Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal package.

Questions regarding this request for qualification (RFQ) statements must be submitted to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, Executive Assistant/Project Manager, in writing via hand delivery to the CPA Administration Office, via fax to (670) 664-3533 and/or emailed to wprater@cpa.gov.mp by no later than Friday, December 1, 2017, 4:30 p.m., local time.

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Overall CM experience in the Pacific area and especially in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands – 30 points;
2. CM experience related to airport related project requirements funded in whole or in part by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA); – 30 points;
3. Level of proficiency in performing CM services promptly; and level of experience with the FAA regulations and requirements and AIP grants – 15 points;
4. The general reputation of the firm in terms of quality of CM work experience, firm's ability to perform the services and the firm's professional integrity and competence – 15 points; and
5. Resumes of key personnel including current licenses and registrations of principal, if applicable – 10 points.

Interested Consultants shall submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf on a compact disc of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **4:30 p.m., FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2017.** Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

Discussions may be conducted with at least three (3) of the firms regarding the agreement requirements and technical approach and selection made there from, in order of preference, of no less than three (3) firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required.

An agreement shall be negotiated with the highest qualified construction management firm or company at a price determined to be fair and reasonable to the government. If a fair and reasonable price cannot be negotiated with the highest ranking qualified firm, then additional firms may be selected in order of competence and qualifications and negotiations continued until a fair and reasonable price is agreed upon.

All responses to this RFQ shall take into account any and all travel costs and taxes that will be charged to the consultant awarded an agreement for this project, including excise tax.

All consultants shall comply with all applicable FAA requirements under this federally funded project.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

For the Commonwealth Ports Authority

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: November 15, 2017

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
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P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
PROJECT NO. CPA-RA-002-18

PROCUREMENT, INSTALLATION & COMMISSIONING OF SECURITY CAMERAS AND SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM BENJAMIN TAISACAN MANGLONA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, ROTA

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed proposals for the procurement, installation & commissioning of security cameras and surveillance systems at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport, Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The Proposal Package and other considerations will be available for pick up beginning November 27, 2017 at the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Proposal for Procurement, Installation & Commissioning of Security Cameras and Surveillance System, BTMIA, Rota, Project No. CPA-RA-002-18". One original and three copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than **4:00 p.m. LOCAL TIME, December 22, 2017**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport. All Proposals shall become the property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

A pre-proposal conference will be held on Rota on **December 15, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.** at the Benjamin Manglona Rota International Airport (CPA) conference room. Attendance at this pre-proposal conference is mandatory and only those vendors present at the pre-proposal conference will be allowed to submit proposals. A site visit will be conducted immediately after the conference or may be requested by making appointments with the CPA Rota Ports Manager to ensure that proposers submitting a proposal are aware of the general area where the surveillance cameras are to be installed.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejections or cancellations; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA.
CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

This Project is funded by the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date

Gold's Gym boasts of 2 new certified personal trainers

Gold's Gym Saipan announced yesterday that it now has two personal trainers—Ella Dela Cruz and Michelle Masga—who had just been certified by the National Academy of Sports Medicine, raising the total of personal trainers on staff to seven.

A Fine Arts major in Visual Communications, Dela Cruz came to Saipan in 2000 and started work at the gym in June 2012. In addition to her new position as a personal trainer, Dela Cruz holds certifications in TRX Suspension Training, Body Pump by Les Mills, Pilates, POP Pilates of Casey Ho, and first aid/CPR. She currently works at the front desk and teaches TRX, Pilates, and Tone & Sculpt. Dela Cruz was inspired by others to become a personal trainer and recently taught Boot Camp & Pilates at L.A. Fitness and Body Pump & Pilates at 24-Hour Fitness in Washington.

Dela Cruz believes essential exercises consist of the 1) Squat, which strengthens lower extremities like the gluteus and quadriceps; 2) Front Iso-Abs aka "the Plank," which strengthens abdominals, back and shoulders. 3) Floor Bridge, which targets the lower, back muscles and gluteus and strengthens and activates core stabilizer muscles, decreases knee pain and corrects muscle imbalances.

Gold's Gym Saipan personal trainers Ella Dela Cruz, right, and Michelle Masga, have just been certified by the National Academy of Sports Medicine. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Her own fitness goals consist of aging well, gaining more energy, getting fitter and stronger, and being a role model to all women, especially mothers. Dela Cruz says, "It's not too late to make a big change in you."

When asked about recommended dietary supplements to enhance a client's performance, she replied, "Amino and whey protein. Gold's Gym is selling one brand called 'Dotfit.'"

Born and raised on Saipan, Masga has an associate degree in Liberal Arts from the Northern Marianas College. She started work at Gold's Gym on Aug. 15, 2016. She works as a front desk associate and was inspired to become a personal trainer because of her long-term goal of becoming a physical therapist specializing in sports medicine. Masga currently coaches volleyball and strives to improve her coaching with experience and knowledge gained in the gym as well as through the study of personal training.

Previously certified in first aid/CPR, Masga studied eight months before taking the NASM exam.

For new clients, Masga uses a structured assessment that tells a person's BMI (body mass index), body fat, and muscle imbalances. During the assessment, she evaluates the client's body weight and height to determine the BMI. The assessment also informs personal trainers which muscles are overactive and underactive when performing an overhead squat.

"Before we start with a program, we highly recommend the client to visit their physician or a physical therapist to determine if the client is fit enough for exercise. Based on the check up, we would know their limitations and capabilities. For example, if a client has had a previous knee injury, we would try to strengthen that weak leg by doing single leg movements," said Masga.

For people who want to gain muscle mass, she suggests they take whey protein powder to enhance the body's protein synthesis, in addition to a multivitamin to improve overall health and a better immune system.

Located adjacent to Sugar King Park, Gold's Gym Saipan is a full fitness facility open seven days a week with world-class certified personal trainers, energetic class instructors, and innovative fitness programs. Gold's Gym has the coaching, programs, and experience you need to help you achieve your fitness goals. For more information, call 670-233-4000. ***(PR)***

COMMONWEALTH CASINO COMMISSION
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
P.O. Box 500237, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: 1 (670) 233-1857 • Fax: 1 (670) 233-1856
Email: info@cnmicasinocommission.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Open Government Act, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres, and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Commonwealth Casino Commission ("Commission"), hereby give notice that the Commission has scheduled its regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, November 29, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library (Technology Room) in Susupe, Saipan.

The following Agenda will be discussed:

I. **PRELIMINARIES:**
A. Call to Order
B. Roll Call
C. Adoption of Agenda
D. Adoption of Minutes: September 21, 2017 & October 26, 2017

II. **REPORTS:**
A. Report by the Chairman
B. Report by the Executive Director

III. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

IV. **MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS:**
A. Casino Licensee (IPI) Updates:
1. Construction Progress – Imperial Pacific Resort & Hotel & Roadways
2. IPI Personnel - Training and Recruitment of U.S. Workers & Employee Compensation
3. Responsible Gaming Program
4. Compliance Committee
5. Other Miscellaneous Matters
B. Other Matters:

V. **OLD BUSINESS:**
A. Proposed Permanent Adoption of Casino Regulations:
1. § 175-10.1-920(b) Casino Employee Licensee Standards.
2. § 175-10.1-1105 Duty to Disclose and Cooperate.
3. § 175-10.1-1130 Consent to Examination of Accounts and Records.
4. § 175-10.1-1315 Disqualification Criteria.
5. § 175-10.1-1501 Commencement of Complaint.
6. § 175-10.1-1510 Notice of Defense.
7. § 175-10.1-1515 Right to Hearing; Waiver.
8. § 175-10.1-1525 Revocation of License or Registration; Hearing.
9. § 175-10.1-1855 Collection of Gaming Credit.
10. § 175-10.1-2605 Licensure and Registration Required.

VI. **NEW BUSINESS:**
A. Approval of Regular Casino Service Provider License (2-Year License)
1. SG Gaming Asia Limited (dba: SG Gaming): Electronic Gaming Machines and Shufflers (Exp. 11/30/17)
2. Gaming Partners International USA, Inc.: Electronic Gaming Chips, Machines and other gaming goods (Exp. 11/30/17)
3. BMM Australia Pty, Ltd.: Testing of Computer Systems and Gaming Software (Exp. 11/30/17)
4. Pokaj D.O.O (Alfastreet): Electronic Gaming Machines (Exp. 11/30/17)
5. DC & BNC Technology, LLC.: System Installation (Exp. 11/30/17)
6. TCS John Huxley American, Inc.: Manufacturer and Distributor of Table Games and Related Equipment (Exp. 11/30/17)
B. Notification of Provisional Non-Gaming Vendor Licenses:
1. Dong Bei Saipan, Inc. (dba: Diamond Water): Drinking Water (Exp. 10/30/18)
2. Star Link China Ltd.: Sanitary Ware, Wash Bins and Faucets (Exp. 11/05/18)

VII. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**
A. Report by the Legal Counsel
B. Report by the CCC Audit Division & by the Enforcement & Investigations Division
C. IPI Financial Matters

VIII. **ADJOURNMENT**

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Commission may vote to meet in Executive Session. In addition, the Commission may extend its official meeting for another day or more if necessary.

Juan M. Sablan
Chairman

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Dough Scaler & Mixer (2)

Classification: Full-Time, Non-Exempt, 32-40 hours per week, 6 days per week, 7am - 2pm
Rate: $7.05 to $7.25/hr
Department: Operations
Reports to: Manager In Charge (MIC)

Summary of Responsibilities
Prepares the pizza dough every morning to use throughout the day.

Essential Functions
- Responsible fo dough preparedness as prescribed from manager In Charge
- Complies with all portioning, quality standards, rules, policies, and safety procedures
- Selects and transports raw items to work are and back. Stores finished products in proper places
- Selects proper equipment and utensils to prepare as procedure require – dough mixer, whips, pitcher, proofer, bun-o-matic, retarder and dough roller.

Other Functions
Performs other duties as assigned

Abilities, Knowledge, and Skills
Must be able to work the opening shift. Able to understand and implement written and verbal instructions. Must possess basic math skills.

Required Experience
Previous bakery experience required.

Education/Experience
High school diploma required.

Physical and/or Medical Requirements
Must obtain a Tuberculosis Clearance Certificate. Position requires well-paced mobility for minimum periods minimum of four hours. Requires standing and walking for the entire workday. Must be able to bend and stoop occasionally. Must be able to occasionally lift 40 lbs. Must have sensory capabilities to select quality of sauce. Must have finger dexterity to use some utensil tools.

Working Conditions
Minimal hazards. General restaurant working conditions.

EMPLOYER'S RIGHTS: *This job description does not list all the duties of the job. You may be asked by your supervisors or managers to perform other duties. You will be evaluated in part based upon your performance of the tasks listed in this job description. The employer has the right to revise this job description at any time. The job description is not a contract for employment, and either you or the employer may terminate employment at any time, for any reason.*

All interested applicants may get application at Pizza Hut Restaurant in Gualo Rai
Closing Date: November 28, 2017

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Cristina Laxamana, Petitioner, vs. Villamor T. Bondoc, Respondent,) FCD-DI-CIVIL ACTION NO. 17-0428 **SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION**

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is PMB 298, P.O. Box 10000 Saipan MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgement by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 16th day of November, 2017.
/s/
Clerk of Court

TINIAN CASINO GAMING CONTROL COMMISSION
Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission (TCGCC) hereby gives notice that it will hold its Regular Meeting on Thursday, November 30, 2017, at 8:00 a.m. at the TCGCC Hearing Room.

AGENDA

I. **PRELIMINARY**
a. Call to Order
b. Roll Call
c. Adoption of Agenda
d. Adoption of Minutes
1) October 30, 2017 - Regular Meeting

II. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**[1]

III. **REPORTS**
a. Chair's Report
b. Executive Director's Report

IV. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

V. **NEW BUSINESS**
(a) Terms of Members

VI. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**[2]

VII. **MISCELLANEOUS/ ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

VIII. **ADJOURNMENT**

[1]Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.
[2]Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Commission may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

MCS Theatre Club presents Disney's *Mulan Jr.*

After months of rehearsals, costume designs, and set construction, and with all premium and preferred seats already sold out, Mount Carmel School's Theatre Club is all set for its next big musical, Disney's *Mulan Jr.* The show will run on Friday, Dec. 1, and Saturday, Dec. 2, on campus.

The show stars Theresa Schweiger as the lead title character, Mulan.

Schweiger is no stranger to the stage, being a veteran of the Theatre Club, but this will be her first lead role. "While I'm anxious, I feel ready because we've been practicing and rehearsing for months now," she said. "This means a lot to me because before I was too shy to express myself, but finally I can show everyone what I can do in singing and acting."

"This is such an important story because it shows that girls can do more than just stay at home cooking. They can get out and make a difference," she added.

Joining Schweiger are Kyla Cabrera as Mulan's sidekick, Mushu; Sinahi Cepeda as Shang, the leader of the emperor's army; and William Año as Shan Yu, the story's main villain and leader of the Hun army.

MCS

Theresa Schweiger, left, plays the lead title character in the upcoming Mount Carmel School Theatre Club production of Disney's *Mulan Jr.*, which is being directed by Reica Ramirez, right.

Cast members prepare to rehearse an ensemble number for the upcoming Mount Carmel School Theatre Club production of Disney's *Mulan Jr.*

MCS

On Mulan's side of the family are Brent Ortizo as Fa Zhou, Mulan's father; Brandee Hunter as Fa Li, Mulan's mother; Jewel Combinido as Mulan's grandmother, Fa; and Trinity Cruz, Kina Dela Cruz, Chloe Lopez, Miyuki Takayama, and Malina Tenorio as Mulan's ancestors.

Shang's lead soldiers are played by Alyson Camacho, Lynzey Green, and Dylan Santos, with some help from Carlo Diaz as Chi Fu and Javon Gersonde as the emperor.

The show also includes dozens of extras playing dressmakers, hairdressers, groomers, soldiers, and townspeople. All in all, there are over 100 cast and crew members involved in the production.

The show is being directed by first-time director Reica Ramirez.

Ramirez was the assistant director for the Theatre Club's last major production, Disney's *The Lion King Jr.*, which was a huge hit last year with over 1,000 audience members in attendance for two sold-out shows.

Now that the show is just around the corner, Ramirez is feeling nervous and anxious, but also confident. "I trust that my cast and crew will deliver one of the best shows ever in the history of the Theatre Club."

More than putting on a great show, Ramirez is proud of how the cast and crew have come together. "This show is about unity, and nothing brings more unity on our campus than a club like Theatre Club, one that brings together elementary kids and high school kids all for one show."

Based on Disney's Oscar-nominated film and the story, *Fa Mulan* by Robert D. San Souci, Disney's *Mulan Jr.* tells the story of Mulan who saves her elderly father from fighting for the emperor by disguising herself as a male soldier to fight in his place. With her dragon sidekick, Mushu, and a motley band of misfit soldiers, Mulan discovers herself as she grows as a soldier and a heroine along the way. Since the original film's release in 1998, Mulan has been a favorite of kids and adults alike who appreciate the story's message of empowerment and courage.

The show features music and lyrics by David Zippel, Jeanine Tesori, Stephen Schwartz, Matthew Wilder, and Alexa Junge. Music for the show was adapted and arranged, with additional music and lyrics provided by Bryan Louiselle. The show's book was adapted and additional lyrics provided by Patricia Cotter.

The Mount Carmel School Theatre Club production of Disney's *Mulan Jr.* will be presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International. All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI (mtishows.com).

Disney's *Mulan Jr.* will be performed on Dec. 1 and 2 at Mount Carmel School at 7pm each night. Front row premiums seats and preferred seats are already sold out, but $5 general admission seats are still available for purchase at the school's Business Office. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 17-105Rev

Opening Date: Monday, November 20, 2017
Closing Date: Monday, December 4, 2017

Public Information Officer

Duties: Under the direct supervision of the Executive Director or designee. Serves as a liaison between CUC, the media and the public; plans, coordinates and disseminates public information utilizing various form of communication in an effort to educate and promote the organization's projects and activities. Prepares copy of news releases; content for the CUC website; articles; newsletters; reports and creates various collateral materials. Develops and coordinates public outreach programs; researches and identifies outreach needs and recommends communication methods for the provision of information. Receives and responds to inquiries from the public, internal departments, and other agencies as well as coordinating with CUC Call center; may serve as representative at public meetings to address questions or issues, and to provide community updates. Designs and implements public information campaigns, events and programs; determines campaign or program goals and expected outcomes; plans, coordinates and prepares materials and activities to meet goals and objectives. Researches, gathers and maintains information and communication materials and archives. Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

LOCATION: **Administration Office, SAIPAN, Northern Mariana Islands, USA**
SALARY: Commensurate with Qualification and Experience
POSITION: One (1)
CONTRACT: Two (2) years, subject to renewal

Minimum Requirements: Bachelor's Degree in Journalism, Public Administration or related field and 4 years or related public information experience. Proficiency in multiple languages (such as legally recognized language in the CNMI: English, Chamorro and Carolinian) is a plus. **Knowledge of:** Applicable Federal, Commonwealth, State and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Public relations principles and techniques; Communication methods; Media relations principles, Customer relations principles; Modern Office Technology. **Skills in:** Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and standards; serving as a public information liaison and representative to the community; Planning, coordinating and disseminating public information; Determining information needs and promoting and educating the public; Preparing news releases, communications content, articles and collateral materials; Listening and responding to inquiries and effectively conveying information; Utilizing critical thinking and social perception to identify issues; Researching and preparing recommendations and responses; Designing and implementing programs and events; Measuring effectiveness of program delivery for future enhancements; Gathering and maintaining communication materials and information; utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Subject to pre-employment drug test.

Drop off your CUC Employment Application at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration Office.

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer
P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950-1220 U.S.A. • Tel. Nos. (670) 235-7025 to 32 Fax (670) 235-5131

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 17-106Rev

Opening Date: Monday, November 20, 2017
Closing Date: Monday, December 4, 2017

Chief of Administration

Duties: Under the general supervision of the Executive Director, the Incumbent of this position duties and responsibilities are: Plans, organizes, and directs the Administrative activities of the Corporation, supervises the work of professional, technical and clerical employees. Directs staff services of the Corporation to which assigned, directs personnel, finance, budget, purchasing, supply and other office management operation, studies and develops office methods and procedures. Performs variety of public relation duties, prepare news releases, speaks before the community groups to explain programs and engineer public interest and participation. Represents administrative superior of day-to-day operational problems in his absence; performs liaison with other department and the public. Coordinates the processing of personnel actions for recruitment, promotions, meritorious step increases, adverse actions, establishment of new positions, and other requests. Interprets and explains administrative policies, rules and procedures to employees and supervisors. Work independently with high degree of expertise in program development. Develop policies, rules and regulations and participates in the development and revision of legislation affecting program and implementations. Conducts staff meeting to insure that goals and objectives are met and completed on a timely basis. Promulgates and interprets the policies and procedures (procurement) as established by the Board of Directors. Develops policies and procedures for accountability and management of personal property. Stand-by before and during emergencies such as power outages, storm conditions and other natural disasters to coordinate the needs of supplies and materials for procurement and issuance. Perform other related duties as assigned.

LOCATION: **Administration Office, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.**
SALARY: Commensurate with Qualification and Experience
POSITION: One (1)
CONTRACT: Two (2) years, subject to renewal

Minimum Requirements: Bachelor's Degree in Business Management or Finance and/or related field and at least eight (8) years of strong operational experience required or Master's in Business Management or Finance or related field and at least five (5) years in senior management role preferred. **Knowledge of:** Federal, Commonwealth, State and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Customer and personnel service; Supervisory responsibility; Knowledge of business and management principles involved in strategic planning, resource allocation, human resources modeling, leadership technique, production methods, and coordination of people and resources. **Skill in:** Organizational development, personnel management, budget and resource development; Excellent people skills, with an ability to partner with a dynamic leadership team; Possess personal qualities of integrity, credibility and commitment to corporate mission; Flexible and able to multitask; can work with an ambiguous, fast-moving environment, while also driving toward clarity and solutions; demonstrated resourcefulness in setting priorities and guiding investment in people and systems; Judgement and decision making, considering the relative cost and benefits of potential actions to choose the most appropriate one; Analyzing data to assess operational or project effectiveness; Developing organizational policies or programs. Applicants may be tested. Subject to pre-employment drug testing.

Drop off your CUC Employment Application at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration Office.

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Business

Retailers look to woo shoppers from rivals as Amazon grows

NEW YORK (AP)—Toys and TVs at J.C. Penney, Barbies at Best Buy, kitchen appliances like wine refrigerators at B.J.'s. As the holiday shopping season officially kicks off Thursday, shoppers may find some surprises at their favorite stores.

Even as retailers are counting on a lift from a better economy, they're looking beyond economic data and mapping out ways to pick up sales from other retailers as Amazon expands its reach. That can mean opening earlier than rivals on the holidays or even jumping into new product categories. The fight for market share comes as analysts at Bain say Amazon is expected to take half of the holiday season's sales growth. And Amazon is the top destination for people to begin holiday shopping, according to a September study by market research firm NPD Group.

"The retailers are in survival mode. It's about stealing each other's market share," said Marshal Cohen, chief industry analyst at NPD. "Amazon is the Grinch. They're stealing the growth."

With the jobless rate at a 17-year-low of 4.1 percent and consumer confidence stronger than a year ago, analysts project healthy sales increases for November and December. The National Retail Federation trade group expects sales for that period to at least match last year's rise of 3.6 percent and estimates online spending and other non-store sales will rise 11 percent to 15 percent.

Chris Green and his daughter Julia shop for books at an Amazon Books store, Monday, Nov. 20, 2017, in New York. AP

Amazon is expected to be a big beneficiary as it cements loyalty among its Prime members and moves into new services and private-label merchandise. The company has introduced more than 20 such brands in the past two years in clothing, electronics, groceries and more, says Bain.

That leaves stores looking at rivals to see where they can pick up sales. There are extra dollars up for grabs this year, after thousands of store locations have closed and several retailers including Gymboree and Toys R Us filed for bankruptcy protection.

Jordan Ascencio, who has sons aged 1, 7, and 8, plans to bypass Toys R Us on Black Friday after being turned off by what she says are dirty stores and skimpy supplies. The latest problem: Her online order was canceled following a large-scale coupon glitch.

"I am not a fan anymore," said the resident of Sapulpa, Oklahoma. Instead, she plans to buy toys at J.C. Penney and Target.

And with Gymboree shuttering a quarter of its stores, Ascencio is buying more of her children's clothing at Target, which has launched a number of new private label brands.

Target CEO Brian Cornell recently highlighted that up to $60 billion in consumer spending will be up for the taking in the next few years, and said the chain has been picking up market share in such areas as clothing.

The Thanksgiving weekend, when stores go all-out to attract shoppers, can be an indication of how well they'll do through the season. About 69 percent of Americans, or 164 million people, intend to shop at some point during the five-day period from Thanksgiving to Cyber Monday, according to a survey released by the National Retail Federation. It expects Black Friday to remain the busiest day, with about 115 million people planning to shop then.

Stores like Macy's, Target and Kohl's are set to open Thursday evening as they try to woo early shoppers. Walmart starts deals in its stores at 6 p.m. J.C. Penney is opening its doors at 2 p.m., an hour earlier than last year and at least three hours ahead of its department store rivals.

Some retailers are using the weekend to test new product areas before committing to them year-round: Penney says it will have TVs and consumer electronics like game consoles as door-busters for Thanksgiving and Black Friday only. Penney has also added year-round toy shops and increased its selection of work pants as an apparent move to grab market share from Sears, after last year going back to selling major appliances.

UN: Closing energy gap would help poorest countries develop

BANGKOK (AP)—The world's least developed countries need access to electricity if they are to break out of poverty, according to a U.N. report that urges wealthy nations to do more to honor their aid commitments to help bridge the energy gap.

The report by the U.N. Conference on Trade and Development says 60 percent of people in the world's poorest countries, 47 of which meet the U.N.'s standards for being "least developed," have no access to electricity—some 577 million people in total.

Access to stable supplies of electricity is crucial for helping businesses in developing countries grow.

More than 40 percent of businesses in the countries covered in the report suffer from inadequate, unreliable and unaffordable power, said the report that was released Wednesday. They report an average of 10 power outages a month, each lasting about five hours, that cost them 7 percent of the value of their sales, it said.

"Energy as a source of transformation is one of the key issues of economic development and this is what we are trying to contribute to, specifically for the least developed countries," Mukhisa Kituyi, secretary-general of UNCTAD, told reporters in Bangkok.

There is a shortfall of $1.5 trillion in funding to help meet the goal of universal access to power by 2030, Kituyi said.

The report said it would cost an estimated $12 billion to $40 billion in annual investment and a more than tripling of the annual rate of gaining access to electricity in those countries.

The countries covered in the report include 33 in Africa, nine in Asia, and five in the South Pacific and Caribbean.

The U.N. is encouraging governments in those countries to adopt policies to attract investors and improve use of their energy resources. Kituyi said it was still difficult for those nations to tap private sources of financing for poverty alleviation.

"The world has come to a point where we say that many solutions to development are best triggered by the private sector," Kituyi said. "But you cannot say that about the least developed countries. You cannot leave it to the private market to fix Laos and Bangladesh, and Cambodia challenges."

Renewable energy has the potential to play a revolutionary role in such countries. So far, most of those initiatives have been small scale, and the U.N. is urging that use of such technologies be scaled up to be useful for public utilities.

Trump SoHo to shed 'Trump' tag amid reports of sagging business

NEW YORK (AP)—The Trump SoHo hotel is dropping the name it shares with the U.S. president.

The Trump Organization said Wednesday that it is ending its licensing deal with the New York hotel amid reports that the property has struggled to attract business.

The company owned by President Donald Trump said that it has signed a deal with the owners of the hotel and residential tower to end management of the property and the use of the Trump name. The announcement comes as the company's other hotels and resorts around the world are showing mixed results.

The tower in the hip, touristy Manhattan neighborhood of SoHo has been the source of controversy and trouble for years.

One of its original backers turned out to be a businessman convicted in a Mafia-linked stock fraud scheme. Later, Trump's three oldest children were alleged to have defrauded buyers of condominiums in the building in a case that was settled in 2011.

Last month, a New York City prosecutor who had dropped a probe sparked by the fraud suit returned a $32,000 campaign contribution from a lawyer who represented the Trump Organization in the investigation. The prosecutor said the contribution had no impact on his decision to drop the probe.

There have also been signs of business trouble recently at the Trump SoHo. Its sushi restaurant closed earlier this year, and The New York Times has reported a drop in room rates at the hotel and slow sales of condos in the residential part of the building.

The president's company said it would have no comment beyond its news release announcing the move. As is the case with many Trump-branded properties, the Trump Organization doesn't own the Trump SoHo.

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
23,526.18	2,597.08	6,867.36
-64.65	-1.95	+4.88
+0.27%	-0.08%	+0.07%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.31	Hong Kong Dollar	7.81	Russian Ruble	58.58
British Pound	0.75	Indian Rupee	64.99	Singapore Dollar	1.35
Canadian Dollar	1.27	Japanese Yen	112.14	South Korean Won	1,061.57
Chinese Yuan	6.47	Malaysian Ringgit	4.06	Swiss Franc	0.98
Euro	0.85	New Zealand Dollar	1.45	Taiwan Dollar	29.36
		Philippine Peso	49.50	Thailand Baht	32.68

Nation

Thanksgiving tribe reclaims language lost to colonization

MASHPEE, Mass. (AP)—The Massachusetts tribe whose ancestors shared a Thanksgiving meal with the Pilgrims nearly 400 years ago is reclaiming its long-lost language, one schoolchild at a time.

"Weesowee mahkusunash," says teacher Siobhan Brown, using the Wampanoag phrase for "yellow shoes" as she reads to a preschool class from Sandra Boynton's popular children's book "Blue Hat, Green Hat."

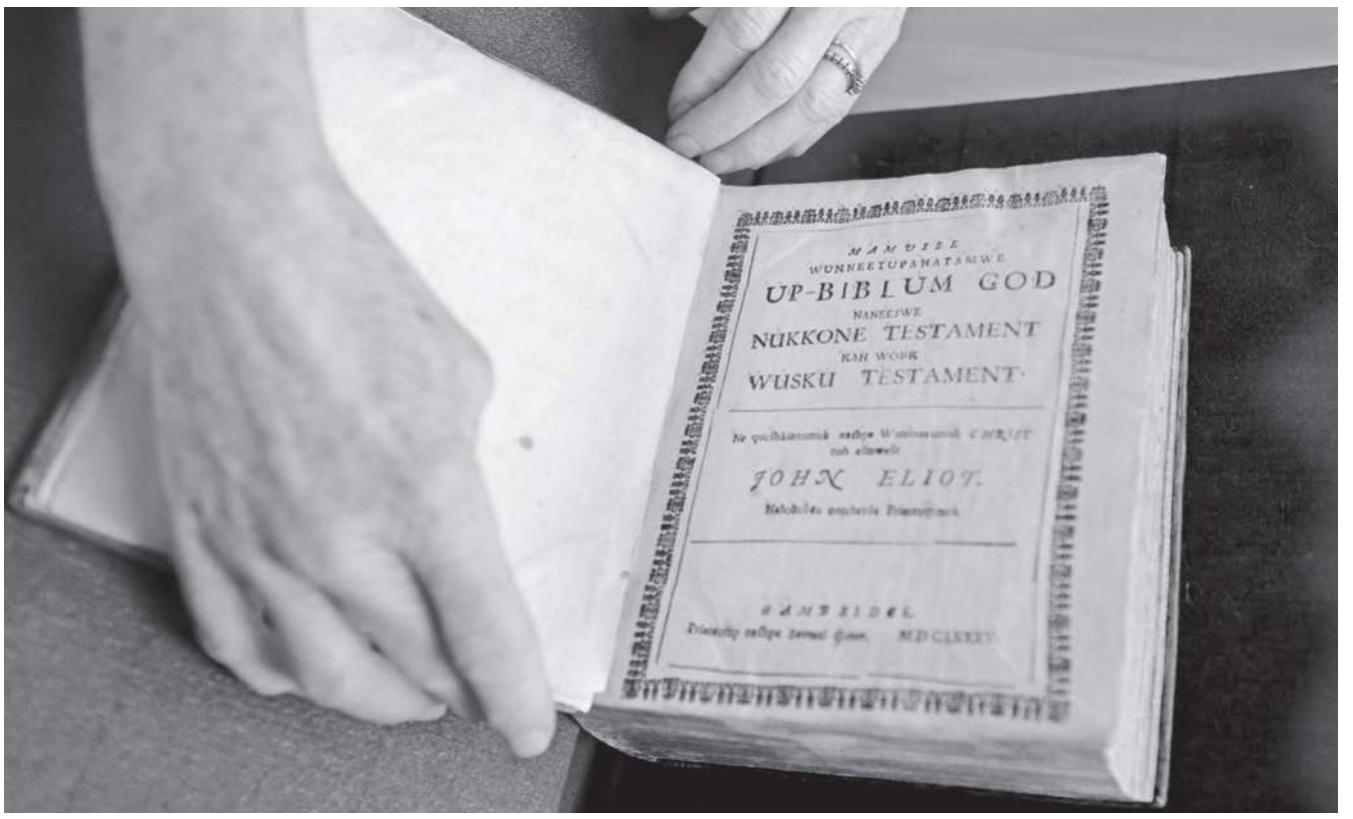
The Mukayuhsak Weekuw—or "Children's House "—is an immersion school launched by the Cape Cod-based Mashpee Wampanoag tribe, whose ancestors hosted a harvest celebration with the Pilgrims in 1621 that helped form the basis for the country's Thanksgiving tradition.

The 19 children from Wampanoag households that Brown and other teachers instruct are being taught exclusively in Wopanaotooaok, a language that had not been spoken for at least a century until the tribe started an effort to reclaim it more than two decades ago.

The language brought to the English lexicon words like pumpkin (spelled pohpukun in Wopanaotooaok), moccasin (mahkus), skunk (sukok), powwow (pawaw) and Massachusetts (masachoosut), but, like hundreds of other native tongues, fell victim to the erosion of indigenous culture through centuries of colonialism.

"From having had no speakers for six generations to having 500 students attend some sort of class in the last 25 years? It's more than I could have ever expected in my lifetime," says Jessie "Little Doe" Baird, the tribe's vice chairwoman, who is almost singularly responsible for the rebirth of the language, which tribal members refer to simply as Wampanoag (pronounced WAHM'-puh-nawg).

Now in its second year, the immersion school is a key milestone in Baird's legacy, but it's not the only way the tribe is ensuring its language is never lost again.



AP

In this Thursday, Oct. 19, 2017, photo Massachusetts Institute of Technology archivist Nora Murphy places a second edition of the Eliot Indian Bible on a table at the MIT rare book collection, in Cambridge, Mass.

At the public high school this year, seven students are enrolled in the district's first Wampanoag language class, which is funded and staffed by the tribe.

Up the road, volunteers host free language learning sessions for families each Friday at the Mashpee Wampanoag Indian Museum.

And within the tribe's government building—one floor up from the immersion school—tribal elders gather twice a week for an hourlong lesson before lunch.

"Sometimes it goes in one ear and out the other," confesses Pauline Peters, a 78-year-old Hyannis resident who has been attending the informal sessions for about three years. "It takes us elders a while to get things. The kids at the immersion school correct us all the time."

The movement to revitalize native American languages started gaining traction in the 1990s and today, most of country's more than 550 tribes are engaged in some form of language preservation work, says Diana Cournoyer, of the National Indian Education Association.

But the Mashpee Wampanoag stand out because they're one of the few tribes to have brought back their language despite not having any surviving adult speakers, says Teresa McCarty, a cultural anthropologist and applied linguist at the University of California Los Angeles.

"Imagine learning to speak, read, and write a language that you have never heard spoken and for which no oral records exist," she says. "It's a human act of brilliance, faith, courage, commitment and hope."

Jessie Baird was in her 20s, had no college degree and zero training in linguistics when a dream inspired her to start learning Wampanoag in the early 1990s.

Working with linguistic experts at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and other tribal members, Baird developed a dictionary of Wampanoag and a grammar guide.

She and others drew on historical documents written in Wampanoag—including personal diaries of tribal members, Colonial-era land claims and a version of the King James Bible printed in 1663 that is considered one of the oldest ever printed in the Western hemisphere.

To fill in the gaps, they turned to words, pronunciations and other auditory cues from related Algonquian languages still spoken today.

The work landed Baird at MIT, where she earned a graduate degree in linguistics in 2000 and a prestigious MacArthur Foundation genius grant in 2010.

Nearly three decades on, the tribe is still in need of more adults fluent in the language to continue expanding its immersion school and other youth-focused language efforts—the keys to ensuring the language's survival, says Jennifer Weston, director of the tribe's language department.

The school currently enrolls pre-K and kindergarten-age children but hopes to ramp up to middle school within five years.

In terror-wary NYC, security tight for Thanksgiving parade

NEW YORK (AP)—Sand-filled sanitation trucks and police sharpshooters will mix with glittering floats and giant balloons at a Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade that comes in a year of terrible mass shootings and not even a month after a deadly truck attack in lower Manhattan.

New York City's mayor and police brass have repeatedly stressed that layers of security, along with hundreds of officers, will be in place for one of the nation's biggest outdoor holiday gatherings, and that visitors should not be deterred.

"We had a couple of tough months as a nation," Police Commissioner James O'Neill said. "We won't ever accept such acts of hate and cowardice as inevitable in our society."

A posting last year in an English-language magazine of the Islamic State group, which took credit for the Oct. 31 truck attack that killed eight people, mentioned the Thanksgiving parade as "an excellent target." Authorities say there is no confirmation of a credible threat.

"I want to assure the people that we swore to protect that anytime something happens anywhere in the world, the NYPD works with our law enforcement partners and studies it and we learn from it and it informs our decision making going forward," O'Neill said.

This year's security plan includes dozens of city sanitation trucks, which weigh about 16 tons empty and up to twice that with sand, that will be lined up as imposing barriers to traffic at every cross street along the 2 ½-mile parade route stretching from Central Park to Macy's flagship store on 34th Street.

Democrats also juggling politics of sexual predation

WASHINGTON (AP)—Democrats have been quick to support the "me too" chorus of women—and some men—who have stepped up to allege sexual misconduct and name names. But now "me too" stains the Democrats, too, putting them in an awkward place as they calibrate how forcefully to respond.

Allegations against Sen. Al Franken of Minnesota and Rep. John Conyers of Michigan are part of the newest chapter in the hot-potato politics of sexual predation for the party, which has its own fraught history on the subject.

The latest revelations have prompted a hard look back at the way Democrats and their allies once circled the wagons around President Bill Clinton, dismissing allegations that extended to serious assault as mere dalliances or the tales of "looney" women.

In her 2016 presidential campaign, Hillary Clinton drew a clear line on behalf of women who allege sexual assault, saying flatly: "You have the right to be believed." But she equivocated when asked if her husband's accusers from another decade should be believed, too: "I would say that everybody should be believed at first until they are disbelieved based on evidence."

The pressure's on now to act without equivocation.

Franken's prankish photo of his hands over a napping woman's breasts on a military plane, combined with her allegations that he kissed her forcibly on another occasion, prompted swift condemnation from throughout the party's ranks and inspired calls for an ethics investigation that the senator-in-hiding supported, too. Then a second woman came forward, alleging Franken grabbed her buttocks during a photo op at a state fair.

In a story published Wednesday by the Huffington Post, two more women alleged that Franken touched their buttocks during campaign events in 2007 and 2008.

The women spoke on condition of anonymity. Franken said in a statement, "It's difficult to respond to anonymous accusers, and I don't remember those campaign events."

And now, BuzzFeed has published affidavits from former employees of Conyers who said they saw the Democrat inappropriately touching women who worked for him and asking them for sexual favors.

It reported that his office paid more than $27,000 to a woman who alleged she was fired because she rejected his sexual advances. On Tuesday, Conyers denied he made that settlement - but his office later acknowledged it while still denying that the allegations were true. The House Ethics Committee has initiated an investigation.

Democrats, predictably, have spoken fiercely and with one voice against Roy Moore, the Republican Senate candidate in Alabama who is accused of disrobing a 14-year-old girl in his house when in his 30s.

Some Republicans have demanded Moore quit his candidacy "if" his accusers have told the truth about his approaching teenage girls. Others have concluded the accusations are more credible than his denials. But a few, like Alabama's GOP governor, have suggested that even if he did prey on a 14-year-old girl decades ago, the need to protect the Senate's Republican majority is a higher priority.

Asia

Cold War drama caught on video as N. Korean soldier escapes

AP

This combination of images made from Nov. 13, 2017, surveillance video released by the United Nations Command shows a North Korean soldier running from a jeep and then shot by North Korean soldiers in Panmunjom, North Korea, before collapsing across the border in South Korea.

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—It's 3:11 p.m. on a cold, gray day on the North Korean side of the most heavily armed border in the world, and a lone soldier is racing toward freedom.

His dark olive-green jeep speeds down a straight, tree-lined road, past drab, barren fields and, headlights shining, across the replacement for the Bridge of No Return, which was used for prisoner exchanges during the Korean War. The shock of soldiers watching the jeep rush by is palpable from the video released Wednesday, and no wonder: They're beginning to realize that one of their comrades is defecting to the South.

They sprint after him.

The jeep slows and turns at a monument to North Korean founder Kim Il Sung, the staging point for North Korean tours of the area.

The border is near, South Korea just beyond it.

■■■

Four North Korean soldiers, weapons in their hands, race by the blue huts that straddle the border and are familiar to anyone who has toured the only spot on the perimeter where North and South Korean soldiers face off within spitting distance of each other. There are no tourists this day.

Right at the line that divides North from South, the defector crashes the jeep into a ditch. Seconds pass as he tries in vain to gun the vehicle out of the gully before leaping out and sprinting into the South. He kicks up leaves, ducking below a tree branch just as the North Korean soldiers skid into view.

Muzzles flash. The North Korean soldiers, one of whom drops flat into the leaves, fire at the defector at close range with handguns and AK-47 assault rifles — about 40 rounds, the South says.

Suddenly, two of the North Koreans run away while the soldier in the leaves jumps up and dashes across the dividing line into South Korean territory before stopping, turning on his heels and sprinting back to the northern side after his comrades. The defector, hit five times with bullets, falls stretched out and unmoving in a pile of leaves against a small wall on the South Korean side.

The entire sequence, from the first appearance of the jeep to the soldier's frenzied crossing, lasts four minutes.

It unfolded Nov. 13 in the Joint Security Area, which is overseen by both the American-led U.N. Command and North Korea and lies inside the 4-kilometer (2 1/2-mile) -wide Demilitarized Zone that has been the de facto border between the Koreas since the war.

Forty minutes later, the video has switched to infrared to show the heat signatures of two South Korean soldiers as they crawl on their hands and knees, using a wall as cover, toward the prone defector. They grab hold of the defector and drag him to safety. Not far away, heavily armed North Korean troops begin to gather near the Kim Il Sung monument.

For the moment, the border is quiet again.

■■■

Surprisingly, North and South Korean soldiers didn't exchange fire during the shooting, the first in the area in more than three decades. The bullets went in only one direction.

The defection, subsequent surgeries and slow recovery of the soldier have riveted South Korea. But his escape is a huge embarrassment for the North, which claims all defections are the result of rival Seoul kidnapping or enticing North Koreans. Pyongyang has said nothing about the defection so far.

North Korea's actions during the defector's escape at the Panmunjom border village violated the armistice agreement ending the Korean War because North Korean soldiers fired across and physically crossed the border in pursuit of the soldier, U.S. Col. Chad Carroll, a spokesman for the U.N. command, told reporters in a live TV briefing Wednesday. A U.N. Command statement said a meeting had been requested with the North's military to discuss the violations.

After undergoing two surgeries last week to repair internal organ damage and other injuries, the soldier has regained consciousness and is no longer relying on a breathing machine. His doctor said Wednesday he is enjoying watching American movies and shows such as "Transformers," ''CSI," and "Bruce Almighty," and listening to South Korean pop songs such as "Gee" by popular female band "Girls' Generation."

"His condition has become much better since yesterday. We've turned on the TV for him since yesterday," doctor Lee Cook-jong told reporters.

Ex-officials accused of corruption in Manila train contract

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine government filed complaints Tuesday with an anti-graft office accusing many Cabinet officials in the previous administration of corruption in a maintenance contract for a Manila commuter train line hounded by near-daily breakdowns.

In addition to the frequent glitches, the Metro Rail Transit 3 Line has also suffered more serious accidents. A coach derailed last week while carrying passengers on metropolitan Manila's main avenue. No one was reported hurt, but more than 100 passengers had to be evacuated. In 2014, dozens of passengers were injured when a train overshot the tracks at a terminal station.

The maintenance contract with Busan Universal Rail Inc., a Philippine-Korean group, has been canceled.

In its plunder complaint with the Ombudsman's Office, the Department of Transportation named most Cabinet officials in the government of former President Benigno Aquino III, current President Rodrigo Duterte's predecessor and political adversary.

"We must stress that the great suffering of the riding public as a result of the failure to deliver on the responsibilities of public office, such as the case of the current state of the MRT-3 system, carries consequences and that those accountable will be held liable," Duterte spokesman Harry Roque said.

Roque said Transportation Secretary Arthur Tugade pledged that the government will select a reliable maintenance contractor and refurbish the train system with new rails, train cars and signaling system.

A safety audit is being conducted to ensure its safety, he added.

Last week, Tugade rejected calls by critics to resign over the problems plaguing the train line and the heavy traffic that continues to choke Manila's streets more than a year after he was appointed.

The officials targeted in Tuesday's complaint include former Interior Secretary Mar Roxas, who lost to Duterte in the 2016 presidential race, former Transportation Secretary Joseph Emilio Abaya, former Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima, former Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin, former Budget Secretary Butch Abad, former Economic Planning Secretary Arsenio Balisacan, former Public Works Secretary Rogelio Singson, former Energy Secretary Jericho Petilla and former Science Secretary Mario Montejo.

Abaya said he was "confident that any inquiry will show that any and all projects and agreements entered into during not only my stint but during the Aquino administration were done with full, rigorous compliance with the law, with honesty, and in the public interest."

Ships, aircraft search PH Sea for 3 missing in crash

TOKYO (AP)—U.S. and Japanese ships and aircraft were searching in the Philippine Sea on Thursday for three sailors missing since a U.S. Navy aircraft crashed a day earlier.

Eight people were rescued about 40 minutes after the crash of the C-2 "Greyhound" transport aircraft Wednesday afternoon, the Navy said. They were taken aboard the USS Ronald Reagan aircraft carrier and were in good condition.

The C-2A twin-propeller plane came down about 500 nautical miles (925 kilometers) southeast of Okinawa as it was bringing passengers and cargo from Japan to the USS Ronald Reagan aircraft carrier, the Navy said in a statement. The cause wasn't clear but the crash would be investigated, the Navy said.

The Reagan was participating in a joint exercise with Japan's Maritime Self-Defense Force when the plane crashed.

The aircraft carrier was leading the search and rescue efforts along with Japan's naval forces. The ships and aircraft had searched more than 320 nautical miles as of Thursday morning, the Navy said.

Japan's Defense Ministry said the crash site is about 150 kilometers (90 miles) northwest of Okinotorishima, a Japanese atoll.

The Navy said it had notified next of kin that the three sailors were "whereabouts unknown" but it would delay releasing their identities publicly for three days due to policy.

In Washington, the White House said President Donald Trump had been briefed on the crash. Trump said in a tweet: "We are monitoring the situation. Prayers for all involved."

The Nov. 16-26 joint exercise in waters off Okinawa has been described by the Navy as the "premier training event" between the U.S. and Japanese navies, designed to increase defensive readiness and interoperability in air and sea operations.

The Navy's Japan-based 7th Fleet has had two fatal accidents in Asian waters this year, leaving 17 sailors dead and prompting the removal of eight top Navy officers from their posts, including the 7th Fleet commander.

The USS John S. McCain and an oil tanker collided near Singapore in August, leaving 10 U.S. sailors dead. Seven sailors died in June when the USS Fitzgerald and a container ship collided off Japan.

World

Saudi-led coalition pledges to ease crippling Yemen blockade

SANAA, Yemen (AP)—The Saudi-led military coalition fighting Shiite rebels in Yemen said Wednesday that it will reopen the war-torn country's main airport and a vital Red Sea port to humanitarian traffic, easing a blockade imposed after rebels fired a missile toward the Saudi capital earlier this month.

The easing is to begin on Thursday.

The airport in the capital of Sanaa would reopen to U.N. aircraft and the sea port of Hodeida would be able to receive urgent humanitarian aid, the coalition statement said.

The port of Salef is also expected to reopen, deputy U.N. spokesman Farhan Haq said in New York, citing information U.N. humanitarian and political officials received from their Saudi counterparts.

It was not immediately clear, however, if port operations will return to pre-blockade levels.

U.N. officials cautiously welcomed the decision.

"It is good news, but we are still waiting to see the specific details," said Jamie McGoldrick, the U.N. humanitarian chief for Yemen.

Haq said the U.N. is monitoring developments and has "made clear the tremendous amount of needs on the ground."

In an interview just before the coalition's announcement, McGoldrick told The Associated Press that a continued blockade would make Yemen's long-suffering population more vulnerable to cholera and famine.

Millions in Yemen are at immediate risk if food aid and the supply of fuel for pumping clean water are interrupted, he said.

About 7 million people in Yemen—out of a population of 27 million—depend entirely on food aid, and 4 million rely on aid groups for clean water.

A disruption of water supplies could reverse recent gains in containing the spread of cholera, which reached about 900,000 suspected cases over the past year, he added.

It was not clear if fuel imports, crucial for supplying clean water, would resume as part of the easing of the blockade, he said.

Zimbabwe's incoming leader returns home to cheers

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP)—Poised to become Zimbabwe's next president, a former confidant of ousted leader Robert Mugabe on Wednesday promised "a new, unfolding democracy" and reached out to the world, saying international help is needed to rebuild the shattered economy.

Emmerson Mnangagwa, who fled Zimbabwe upon being fired from his job as vice president on Nov. 6, made a triumphant return to the country a day after 93-year-old Mugabe resigned. His departure after 37 years in power followed a week of intense pressure—from the military that staged a government takeover, from members of parliament who started impeachment proceedings and from citizens who protested in the streets.

While Mnangagwa talked in his speech about democracy and "working together," he also recited slogans from the ruling ZANU-PF party such as "Forward with ZANU-PF, down with enemies" that are unlikely to attract Zimbabweans in the opposition.

He served for decades as Mugabe's enforcer, a role that earned him the nickname "Crocodile." Many opposition supporters believe he was instrumental in the army killings of thousands of people when Mugabe moved against a political rival in the 1980s.

Mnangagwa was in hiding during the political drama that led to Mugabe's resignation. His appearance at the headquarters of the party electrified a crowd that waited for hours. Flanked by bodyguards, and dressed in a blue suit, he raised his fists and danced a little on a podium, delighting supporters who hope he can guide Zimbabwe out of political and economic turmoil that has exacted a heavy toll on the southern African nation of 16 million.

AP

Zimbabwe's President in waiting Emmerson Mnangagwa, center, greets supporters gathered outside the Zanu-PF party headquarters in Harare, Zimbabwe Wednesday, Nov. 22, 2017.

"Today we are witnessing the beginning of a new, unfolding democracy," said the 75-year-old, who added that he had already received messages of support from other countries.

"We need the cooperation of the continent of Africa," he said. "We need the cooperation of our friends outside the continent."

After meeting with South African President Jacob Zuma, Mnangagwa flew in a private jet from South Africa to Zimbabwe. He indicated that his inauguration as president will be on Friday. That is "when we finish this job to legally install a new president," he said.

Mnangagwa will serve Mugabe's remaining term until elections next year. Opposition lawmakers who have alleged vote-rigging in the past say that balloting must be free and fair.

The party's Central Committee had voted to remove Mugabe from his party leadership post and replace him with Mnangagwa, a former justice and defense minister with close ties to the military.

Mugabe fired his longtime deputy as the former president's wife, Grace Mugabe, positioned herself to replace him and succeed her husband. That led the military to step into the party's factional battle a week ago by sending tanks into the streets and putting the president under house arrest—a move that opened the door for the party and the people to turn against the leader who took power after the end of white minority rule in 1980.

The resignation was met with wild celebrations across the Zimbabwean capital of Harare. People were thrilled to be rid of a leader whose early promise, including an emphasis on education, was overtaken by economic collapse, government dysfunction and human rights violations.

Argentina reports new clue in search for missing submarine

MAR DEL PLATA, Argentina (AP)—Ships and planes hunting for a missing Argentine submarine with 44 crew members will return to a previously search area after officials said Wednesday that a noise made a week ago in the South Atlantic could provide a clue to the vessel's location.

The Argentina navy spokesman, Capt. Enrique Balbi, said the "hydro-acoustic anomaly" was determined by the United States and specialist agencies to have been produced Nov. 15, just hours after the final contact with the ARA San Juan and could have come from the sub.

The sound originated about 30 miles north of the submarine's last registered position, he said.

"It's a noise. We don't want to speculate" about what caused it, Balbi said.

He said Argentine navy ships as well as a U.S. P-8 Poseidon aircraft and a Brazilian air force plane would return to the area to check out the clue, even though the area already was searched.

In San Diego, U.S. Navy Lt. Lily Hinz later said the unusual sound detected underwater could not be attributed to marine life or naturally occurring noise in the ocean. She declined to speculate whether it might have been an explosion, saying experts did not know what it was.

"It was not a whale, and it is not a regularly occurring sound," Hinz said.

On land, relatives of the submarine's crew grew increasingly distressed as experts said the vessel lost for seven days might be reaching a critical period of low oxygen.

Jorge Villarreal kept his eyes fixed on the ocean, hoping to catch a glimpse of the vessel that carried his son, Fernando Villareal, a submarine officer.

"As a dad I want him to be rescued immediately, but we can't forget about the inclemency of the weather. And the foreign help just doesn't come from one day to the next," he said. "We hope this will go right because of the improving weather and the technology that's being used."

Graphic: Staff, TNS

The San Juan went missing as it was sailing from the extreme southern port of Ushuaia to the city of Mar del Plata, about 250 miles (400 kilometers) southeast of Buenos Aires.

The Argentine navy and outside experts worry that oxygen for the crew would last only seven to 10 days if the sub was intact but submerged. Authorities do not know if the sub rose to the surface to replenish its oxygen supply and charge batteries, which would affect the calculation.

The German-built diesel-electric TR-1700 class submarine was scheduled to arrive Monday at the naval base in Mar del Plata, where city residents have been dropping by with messages of support for relatives of the crew.

More than a dozen airplanes and ships are participating in the multinational search despite stormy weather that has caused waves of more than 20 feet (6 meters). Search teams are combing an area of some 185,000 square miles (480,000 square kilometers), which is roughly the size of Spain.

The U.S. government has sent two P-8 Poseidons, a naval research ship, a submarine rescue chamber and sonar-equipped underwater vehicles. U.S. Navy sailors from the San Diego-based Undersea Rescue Command are also helping with the search.

President Donald Trump went on Twitter to offer his good wishes to Argentina on Wednesday, though he inflated the number of missing sailors by one.

"I have long given the order to help Argentina with the Search and Rescue mission of their missing submarine. 45 people aboard and not much time left. May God be with them and the people of Argentina!" his tweet said.

Hopes were lifted after brief satellite calls were received and when sounds were detected deep in the South Atlantic. But experts later determined that neither was from the missing sub. A U.S. Navy aircraft later spotted flares and a life raft was found in the search area, but authorities said neither came from the missing submarine.

Science & Technology

What happens once 'net neutrality' rules bite the dust?

By TALI ARBEL
AP TECHNOLOGY WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—The Federal Communications Commission formally released a draft of its plan to kill net-neutrality rules, which equalized access to the internet and prevented broadband providers from favoring their own apps and services.

Now the question is: What comes next?

"RADICAL DEPARTURE"

The FCC's move will allow companies like Comcast, AT&T and Verizon to charge internet companies for speedier access to consumers and to block outside services they don't like. The change also axes a host of consumer protections, including privacy requirements and rules barring unfair practices that gave consumers an avenue to pursue complaints about price gouging.

FCC Chairman Ajit Pai says his plan eliminates unnecessary regulation. But many worry that his proposal will stifle small tech firms and leave ordinary citizens more at the mercy of cable and wireless companies.

Torres

"It would be a radical departure from what previous (FCC) chairs, of both parties, have done," said Gigi Sohn, a former adviser to Tom Wheeler, the Obama-era FCC chairman who enacted the net neutrality rules now being overturned. "It would leave consumers and competition completely unprotected."

During the last Republican administration, that of George W. Bush, FCC policy held that people should be able to see what they want on the internet and to use the services they preferred. But attempts to enshrine that net-neutrality principle in regulation never held up in court—at least until Wheeler pushed through the current rules now slated for termination.

Pai's proposals stand a good chance of enactment at the next FCC meeting in December. But there will be lawsuits to challenge them.

MORE DETAILS

The formal proposal reveals more details of the plan than were in the FCC's Tuesday press release. For instance, if companies like Comcast, AT&T and Verizon decide to block a particular app, throttle data speeds for a rival service or offer faster speeds to companies who pay for it, they merely need to disclose their policies for doing so.

The FCC also says it will pre-empt state rules on privacy and net neutrality that contradict its approach. Verizon has noted that New York has several privacy bills pending, and that the California legislature has suggested coming up with its own version of net neutrality rules should the federal versions perish.

The plan would leave complaints about deceptive behavior and monitor privacy to the Federal Trade Commission, which already regulates privacy for internet companies like Google and Facebook.

What is net neutrality and why does it matter?

NEW YORK (AP)—"Net neutrality" regulations, designed to prevent internet service providers like Verizon, AT&T, Comcast and Charter from favoring some sites and apps over others, are on the chopping block. Federal Communications Commission Chairman Ajit Pai, a Republican, on Tuesday unveiled a plan to undo the Obama-era rules that have been in place since 2015 .

Here's a look at what the developments mean for consumers and companies.

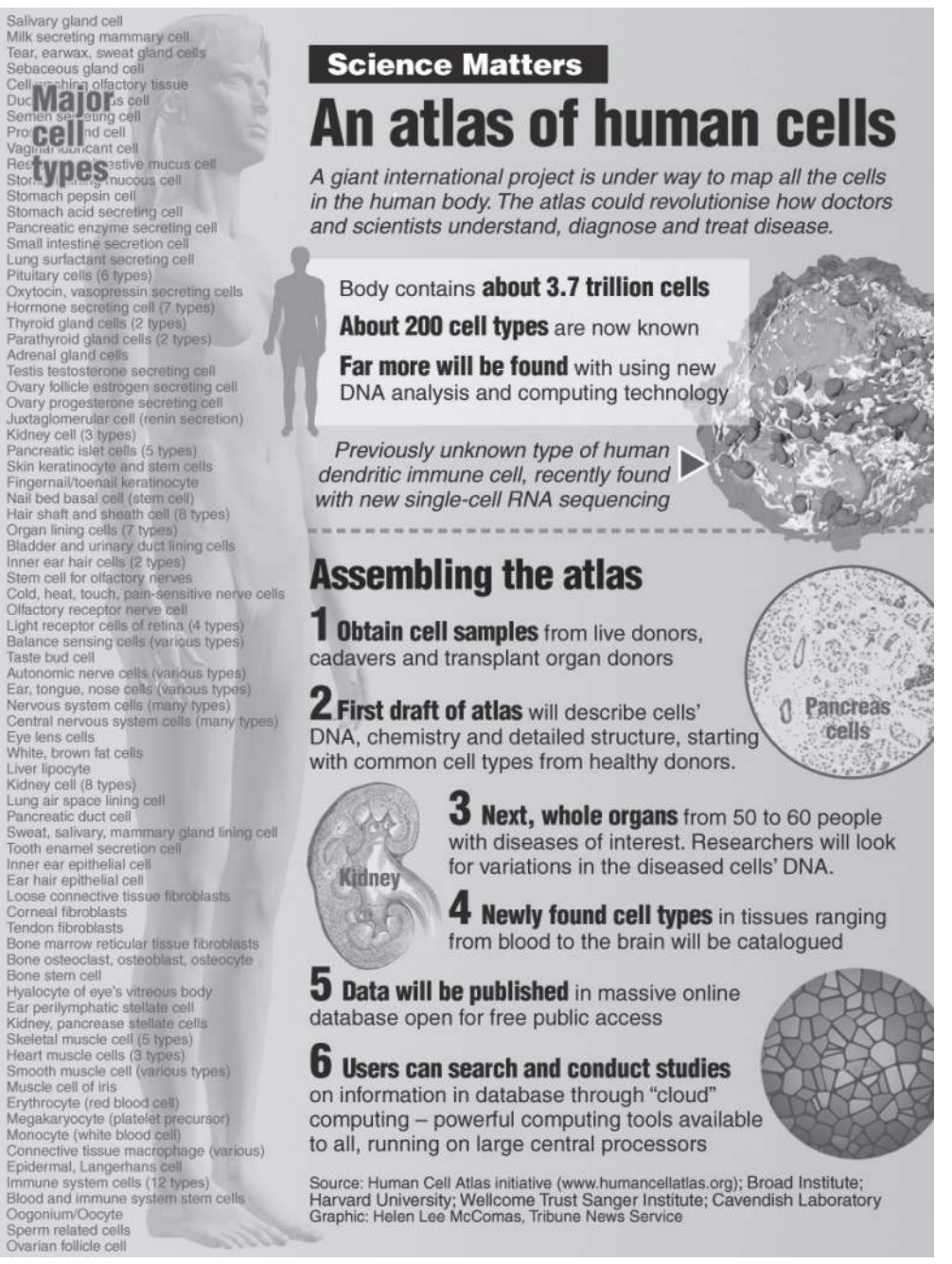
WHAT IS NET NEUTRALITY?

Net neutrality is the principle that internet providers treat all web traffic equally, and it's pretty much how the internet has worked since its creation. But regulators, consumer advocates and internet companies were concerned about what broadband companies could do with their power as the pathway to the internet—blocking or slowing down apps that rival their own services, for example.

WHAT DID THE GOVERNMENT DO ABOUT IT?

The FCC in 2015 approved rules, on a party-line vote, that made sure cable and phone companies don't manipulate traffic. With them in place, a provider such as Comcast can't charge Netflix for a faster path to its customers, or block it or slow it down.

The net neutrality rules gave the FCC power to go after companies for business practices that weren't explicitly banned as well. For example, the Obama FCC said that "zero rating" practices by AT&T violated net neutrality. The telecom giant exempted its own video app from cellphone data caps, which would save some consumers money, and said video rivals could pay for the same treatment. Pai's FCC spiked the effort to go after AT&T, even before it began rolling out a plan to undo the net neutrality rules entirely.


Science Matters
An atlas of human cells
A giant international project is under way to map all the cells in the human body. The atlas could revolutionise how doctors and scientists understand, diagnose and treat disease.
Major cell types
Salivary gland cell
Milk secreting mammary cell
Tear, earwax, sweat gland cells
Sebaceous gland cell
Cell lining olfactory tissue
Semen secreting cell
Vaginal lubricant cell
Stomach pepsin cell
Stomach acid secreting cell
Pancreatic enzyme secreting cell
Small intestine secretion cell
Lung surfactant secreting cell
Pituitary cells (6 types)
Oxytocin, vasopressin secreting cells
Hormone secreting cell (7 types)
Thyroid gland cells (2 types)
Parathyroid gland cells (2 types)
Adrenal gland cells
Testis testosterone secreting cell
Ovary follicle estrogen secreting cell
Ovary progesterone secreting cell
Juxtaglomerular cell (renin secretion)
Kidney cell (3 types)
Pancreatic islet cells (5 types)
Skin keratinocyte and stem cells
Fingernail/toenail keratinocyte
Nail bed basal cell (stem cell)
Hair shaft and sheath cell (8 types)
Organ lining cells (7 types)
Bladder and urinary duct lining cells
Inner ear hair cells (2 types)
Stem cell for olfactory nerves
Cold, heat, touch, pain-sensitive nerve cells
Olfactory receptor nerve cell
Light receptor cells of retina (4 types)
Balance sensing cells (various types)
Taste bud cell
Autonomic nerve cells (various types)
Ear, tongue, nose cells (various types)
Nervous system cells (many types)
Central nervous system cells (many types)
Eye lens cells
White, brown fat cells
Liver lipocyte
Kidney cell (8 types)
Lung air space lining cell
Pancreatic duct cell
Sweat, salivary, mammary gland lining cell
Tooth enamel secretion cell
Inner ear epithelial cell
Ear hair epithelial cell
Loose connective tissue fibroblasts
Corneal fibroblasts
Tendon fibroblasts
Bone marrow reticular tissue fibroblasts
Bone osteoclast, osteoblast, osteocyte
Bone stem cell
Hyalocyte of eye's vitreous body
Ear perilymphatic stellate cell
Kidney, pancrease stellate cells
Skeletal muscle cell (5 types)
Heart muscle cells (3 types)
Smooth muscle cell (various types)
Muscle cell of iris
Erythrocyte (red blood cell)
Megakaryocyte (platelet precursor)
Monocyte (white blood cell)
Connective tissue macrophage (various)
Epidermal, Langerhans cell
Immune system cells (12 types)
Blood and immune system stem cells
Oogonium/Oocyte
Sperm related cells
Ovarian follicle cell
Body contains about 3.7 trillion cells
About 200 cell types are now known
Far more will be found with using new DNA analysis and computing technology
Previously unknown type of human dendritic immune cell, recently found with new single-cell RNA sequencing
Assembling the atlas
1 Obtain cell samples from live donors, cadavers and transplant organ donors
2 First draft of atlas will describe cells' DNA, chemistry and detailed structure, starting with common cell types from healthy donors.
Pancreas cells
Kidney
3 Next, whole organs from 50 to 60 people with diseases of interest. Researchers will look for variations in the diseased cells' DNA.
4 Newly found cell types in tissues ranging from blood to the brain will be catalogued
5 Data will be published in massive online database open for free public access
6 Users can search and conduct studies on information in database through "cloud" computing – powerful computing tools available to all, running on large central processors
Source: Human Cell Atlas initiative (www.humancellatlas.org); Broad Institute; Harvard University; Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute; Cavendish Laboratory
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Tribune News Service

TECH REVIEW

It's not just the year of the iPhone X for smartphone shoppers

By JIM ROSSMAN
THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS

It's been a bit of a banner fall for fans of new flagship smartphones. Samsung made headlines first with the Galaxy S8 and Note 8, even as much of the tech universe awaited Apple's spiffy iPhoneX. Don't forget Google, with the introduction of the Pixel 2, and Motorola has the Z2 Force, which is affordable and robust. And there's a whole wave of flashy Chinese smartphones that will eventually come ashore in the U.S. Whatever phone features you're after, I'm betting you would be happy with any of the handsets on this list.

IPHONE X

What is it? Easily the most anticipated phone of the year, the iPhone X (pronounced as 10, not as the letter) is the first new iPhone design in years. Gone is the home button with its fingerprint sensor and front bezels. It's been replaced with an edge-to-edge screen and Face ID.

Who is it for? This is the handset most iPhone users have been waiting years to get their hands on. Iterations by Apple since the iPhone 6 had many consumers sitting on the sidelines for the next big thing. What does it cost? Two configurations: 64gb for $999 and 256gb for $1,149. Where can I get it? Apple.com or its stores, or from major wireless carriers and big box stores. But in typical Apple fashion, they'll likely be hard to find until supply and demand match up.

IPHONE 8/8 PLUS

What is it? This is the new iPhone everyone was expecting, and Apple did not disappoint. Yes, it looks exactly like last year's model (and the ones before that), but the new iPhones are faster, with more storage and upgraded cameras and software. Who is it for? iPhone users who want a new phone but can't justify spending $999. What does it cost: iPhone 8 is $699 for 64gb, $849 for 256gb; iPhone 8 Plus is $799 for 64gb, $949 for 256gb.

Where can I get it? Apple.com and its stores, all major carriers and big box stores.

SAMSUNG GALAXY NOTE 8

What is it? A follow-up to the much maligned and recalled Note 7, the Note 8 is a spectacular phone that is the best Android phone I've ever used. It has a huge 6.3-inch screen, but it feels just right in your hand. The S Pen sets it apart—it's actually very useful. Who is it for? There are big phones and bigger phones. The Note 8 is for users who want the biggest phones and who take lots of notes. What does it cost? $929.99 for 64gb, slightly more or less depending on carrier.

Where can I get it? Samsung.com, any major carrier or big box store.

SAMSUNG GALAXY S8/S8+

What is it? A beautiful flagship phone for the Android user who doesn't fancy writing on the screen with a stylus. The 5.8-inch S8 and the 6.2-inch S8+ had cool edge-to-edge screens and unlocking with your face way before Apple's iPhone X. The cameras are also something special.

Who is it for? Almost any Android phone user.

What does it cost? $724.99 for S8; $824.99 for S8+. Both models have 64gb of storage. Where can I get it: Samsung.com, all major carriers and big box stores.

GOOGLE PIXEL 2/PIXEL 2 XL

What is it? Successor to Google's successful Pixel, the 5-inch Pixel 2 and 6-inch Pixel 2 XL are really well-built handsets that run a very pure version of Android. The phones are beautifully designed and have a real emphasis on camera quality. Bonus points for placing the fingerprint sensor in exactly the right spot. Who is it for? Android purists. What does it cost? Pixel 2 is $649 for 64gb; Pixel 2 XL is $849 for 64gb. Add $100 to bump either phone to 128gb.

Where can I get it? store.google.com, Verizon stores and Best Buy.

MOTOROLA Z2 FORCE

What is it? Thin, fast and shatterproof 5.5-inch phone with a really good battery. Plus it has lots of modular add-ons that can turn the phone into cool things like a projector, 360-degree camera, high-quality JBL speaker and a 10x optical zoom Hasselblad camera.

Who is it for? Gadget lovers. Swiss Army knife fans.

What does it cost? $720 for 64gb. Where can I get it? All major carriers and Best Buy.

Jim Rossman writes for The Dallas Morning News. He may be reached at jrossman@dallasnews.com.

Off The Wall

Newborn, mother and grandmother all share same birthday

PRINCETON, N.J. (AP)—A New Jersey family won't have trouble remembering three generations of birthdays.

A newborn, his mother and grandmother were all born on Nov. 19.

Grandmother Clara Gregory said she had a feeling her grandson was going to be born on Nov. 19, even though the baby wasn't due until Christmas. Theresa Dunn gave birth to Micah Lee Dunn at a Princeton hospital Sunday afternoon.

Dunn, of Lawrence, was admitted to the hospital Thursday night and doctors attempted to induce labor. Dunn said her husband kept saying the baby would be born on her and her mother's birthday.

"I finally came to the realization Saturday night that he could really be born on our birthday," she told NJ.com .

Dunn said she was previously diagnosed with preeclampsia, which causes high blood pressure in pregnant women. She said doctors were hoping to get closer to her expected due date before inducing labor.

Micah is several weeks early but is "doing amazing," Dunn said.

Dunn turned 31 on Sunday and her mother celebrated her 67th birthday.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Police: Prostitution ring run out of senior living facility

PITTSFIELD, Mass. (AP)—Police in Massachusetts have arrested two men they say ran a prostitution ring out of an apartment at a senior living facility. Pittsfield police say 65-year-old Joseph Van Wert and 45-year-old Randy Lambach have been held without bail pending a dangerousness hearing scheduled for Nov. 29. Authorities say Lambach recruited drug addicts from Pittsfield, took photos of them, and posted ads on adult websites. Police say he scheduled and drove them to and from meetings with men, kept most of the proceeds, and paid the women in drugs. Police say Van Wert used his apartment at a senior living facility as a place to conduct the prostitution. Lambach allegedly threatened to turn the women in if they stopped working for him.

Police: Man crashes car to highlight dangerous intersection

CLERMONT, Fla. (AP)—Authorities say a man angered over people driving dangerously through a busy intersection appeared to intentionally cause a crash there to highlight the problem. The Daily Commercial reports 61-year-old Bruce John Homer told Lake County Sheriff's Office deputies who responded to the Sunday afternoon accident that he was frustrated law enforcement wouldn't crack down on people running through a stop sign at the intersection. The driver of the SUV that was hit says Homer pulled out in front of him as he was going through the intersection. The driver says Homer approached him after the crash, telling him he'd run the stop sign and law enforcement "won't do anything until someone dies." Homer is charged with aggravated battery and reckless driving.

Woman raises more than $60K for homeless man who helped her

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—A New Jersey woman who was helped by a homeless man after she ran out of gas on an interstate in Philadelphia has raised more than $60,000 for the good Samaritan. Kate McClure, 27, started the Gofundme.com campaign earlier this month after she said she ran out of gas on Interstate 95 and a homeless man, Johnny Bobbitt Jr., walked a few blocks and bought her some with his last $20. McClure said she didn›t have any money to repay him at the time but returned to the road several times to give him cash, clothes and food. After a few visits, she started the fundraiser with the hopes of using the money toward housing and other expenses for the 34-year-old Bobbitt. «I wish that I could do more for this selfless man, who went out of his way just to help me that day,» she wrote on the fundraising page. «Truly believe that all Johnny needs is one little break. Hopefully with your help I can be the one to give it to him.» Donations have poured in, and the fundraiser has shattered its goal of raising $10,000 for Bobbitt. About 2,000 people had given to the campaign by Wednesday evening.

In Alabama, Nitro the police dog creates viral workout video

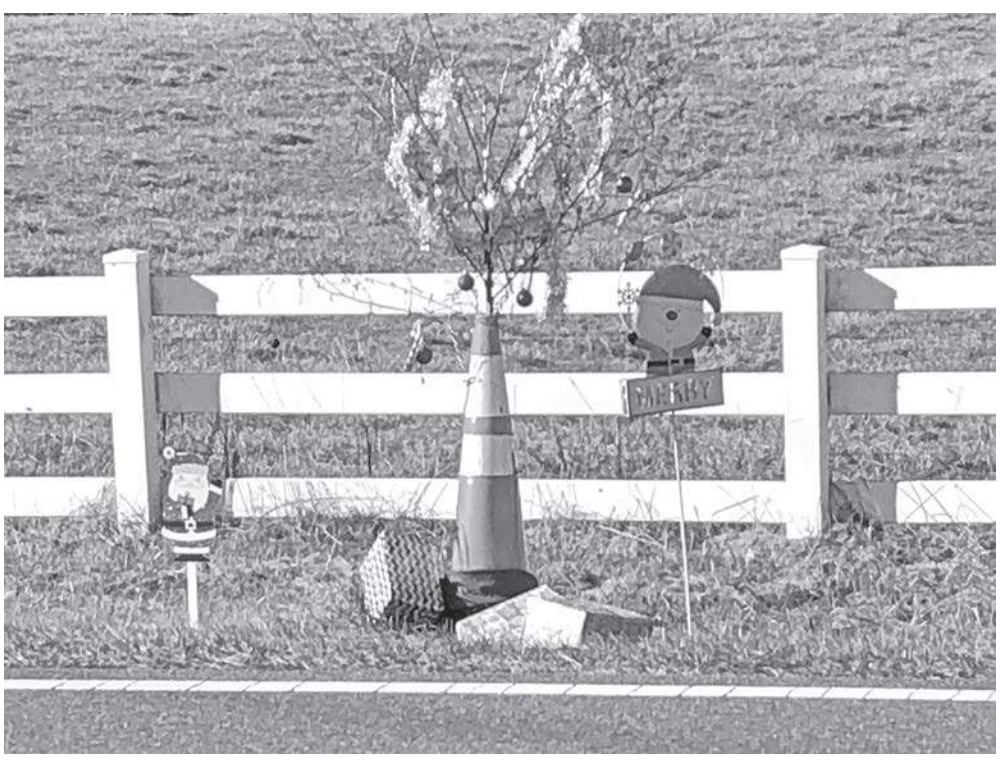
GULF SHORES, Ala. (AP)—An Alabama police dog shown on video doing pushups with two officers is a big hit on the internet—and a public safety reminder. Al.com reports that Nitro is a 2-year-old Dutch shepherd who joined the Gulf Shores Police Department›s canine unit in February. In a video police posted to social media, the dog raises up and down as the song «Eye of the Tiger» plays in the background. Gulf Shores police Cpl. Josh Coleman said the seven-second video is part of a social media trend—#9PMRoutine—began by the Pasco County Sheriff's Department in Florida. Coleman said the 9 p.m. routine is one way law enforcement agencies are reminding people to remove valuables from cars and lock up at the end of the day.

High winds topple 9 semitrucks near Wyoming-Colorado line

CHEYENNE, Wyo. (AP)—Officials say high wind speeds tipped over nine semitrucks on a highway near the border of Wyoming and Colorado. The Wyoming Tribune Eagle newspaper reportsthat 60 mph (97 kph) winds toppled the vehicles Monday on Interstate 25 near the city of Cheyenne. The Wyoming Department of Transportation says the interstate was closed for an hour to clean up the crashes. A wind advisory was issued throughout most of the day, warning high-profile vehicles of the conditions. Semitrucks also blew over on other highways. Drivers that ignore such advisories could face a $750 fine or face 30 days in prison.

Baron Cohen to pay fine for Czechs sporting Borat mankinis

PRAGUE (AP)—Comic actor Sacha Baron Cohen has offered to pay the fines for six Czech tourists who were reportedly detained by authorities in Kazakhstan's capital Astana for dressing up as his character Borat. Sporting lime green "mankinis" and black wigs, the men had hoped to take a picture in front of the "I Love Astana" sign earlier this month. But local police fined them some $68 each for committing minor hooliganism, according to local media. In a Facebook post on Tuesday, Baron Cohen says: "To my Czech mates who were arrested. Send me your details and proof that it was you, and I'll pay your fine." The swimsuit became popular after Baron Cohen sported it in the 2006 movie "Borat: Cultural Learnings of America for Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan." That film offended many Kazakhs by portraying the country as backward and degenerate.



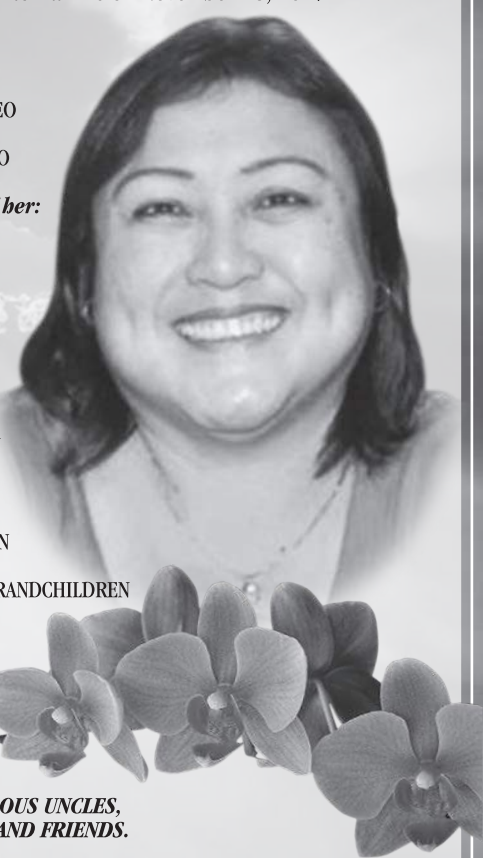
CONE WEED BILL SUTHARD VIA AP

This photo provided by Bill Suthard shows an orange traffic cone with a weed growing out of it, decorated with tinsel and ornaments in Huntersville, N.C. The roadside attraction dubbed "Cone Weed" is something of a Christmas miracle to locals. The weed has been growing unencumbered across from the Huntersville Fire Station for a year and has amassed a cult following. The fire station tweeted pictures of Cone Weed decked in tinsel and ornaments last week.

In Celebration of her new life

†CYNTHIA SALAS RODEO

Born to life May 29, 1962 - Called to Eternal life on November 18, 2017



In her new life she now joins her:

FATHER: †ATANASIO T. SALAS
MOTHER: †MARIA S. SALAS
FATHER IN LAW: †GREGORIO E. RODEO
MOTHER IN LAW: †ROSITA E. RODEO
MOTHER IN LAW: †ANGELINA G. RODEO

Her memories will forever live in the hearts of her:

HUSBAND: **ALLAN E. RODEO**
CHILDREN AND FAMILY: **PATRICK** & AILEEN RODEO {ALDRICK}
CHRISTOPHER & DEANNA RODEO {DYLAN & CALEB}

BROTHERS, SISTERS & IN LAWS:
MARTIN / †THERESA L. SALAS AND CHILDREN
†VICENTE / SOPHIA (RITA) SALAS AND CHILDREN
†ANTONIO / ROSALINA SALAS AND CHILDREN
EMMANUEL SALAS AND CHILDREN
JOSE SALAS, CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN
SYLVERIA SALAS, CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN
WILLIAM / YVONNE SALAS AND CHILDREN
RAMON / DORINDA SALAS AND CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN
MELINDA / AUGUSTINE NAPUTI AND CHILDREN
JOAQUIN / CORAZON SALAS AND CHILDREN
DIEGO / KEIKO SAN NICOLAS AND CHILDREN
ELVIN / ANITA RODEO AND CHILDREN
ARIEL / JEWEL RODEO AND CHILDREN
NORMAN / LISA RODEO
MEIBEL RODEO AND CHILD

SHE IS ADDITIONALLY SURVIVED BY HER NUMEROUS UNCLES, AUNTS, COUSINS, NIECES, NEPHEWS, RELATIVES AND FRIENDS.

Funeral Services will be held on Tuesday, November 28, 2017. Her remains will be escorted from Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel at 7:30 am to Kristo Rai Church. Responso Service and Holy Rosary will take place upon arrival of the remains.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 am followed by Interment Service at Sanctuario PAX Memorial Gardens where she will be laid to a peaceful rest.

Please join us in prayers

Allan, Patrick, Christopher and Family

Life & Style

Q&A: Denzel on 'Roman J. Israel,' 'Malcolm X' and 'Shaft'

By JAKE COYLE
AP FILM WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—Denzel Washington, 62 years-old and a seven-time Oscar nominee, is still trying to get better.

In Dan Gilroy's "Roman J. Israel, Esq.," Washington has challenged himself with one of his most complicated and singular roles. The title character (played by Washington) is a veteran activist attorney. After decades spent as a brilliant behind-the-scenes legal mind, the death of his more renowned partner brings Israel out into the open.

For an actor whose most powerful performances ("Malcolm X," ''Glory," ''Training Day") have been monuments of power and strength, Israel is an oddity—a loping, rumpled, anti-social loner who Gilroy and Washington say has Asperger's Syndrome. But he's also of a part with many of Washington's more recent roles (the tragic Troy Maxson in "Fences," the alcoholic pilot of "Flight") that have stretched the actor in new directions.

Washington

"I'm looking at the guy in the mirror," says Washington. "That's who I'm challenging."

Washington met for interview in midtown Manhattan earlier this week during a day's break from shooting the thriller sequel "The Equalizer 2" in Boston. His affection for Israel was obvious. It's the only movie, Washington says, where he's found himself quietly pleading to his character to make better choices.

But the moves made by Washington—arguably the biggest movie star on the planet—remain fascinating, too.

AP: You've compared Roman to "Cornel West on the spectrum."

Washington: Cornel is brilliant and different. I don't know if he's on the spectrum but who cares. He's just bright and articulate and down for the cause, and there's a lot of that in Roman.

AP: Where did Roman's walk come from?

Washington: I did a lot of research on the spectrum. In some people, it talked about a lack of coordination—in some people, not everyone. I was attracted to that. It was something I could physicalize. I forget how I actually got to it, but I decided to wear shoes a couple of sizes too big. It changed everything. It changed the way I walked, just trying to keep them on.

AP: Do you often start with something like that?

Washington: I like to get the shoes sooner than later. It gets the ball rolling.

AP: You had a close brush with Dan Gilroy's brother, Tony, whose "Michael Clayton" you passed on.

Washington: Yeah, made a mistake there! It worked out all right, though, for Tony. And for George (Clooney).

AP: Did you have a feeling of starting a new chapter after "Fences"? You spent years performing that on Broadway and directing the film adaptation.

Washington: Increasingly, I'm only going to do what I want to do, professionally. So I don't know what I'm going to do next. Film-wise, I don't. I do on the stage. (Washington will headline a revival of Eugene O'Neill's "The Iceman Cometh" on Broadway.) And that's OK. Take my time. The time I have left and the opportunities that I have left, I understand that that's finite. How can I be the best that I can be? And what interests me? Where's the new territory?

AP: Troy from "Fences" and Israel both share a disconnect with younger generations. Has that been on your mind at all?

Washington: It's a fact. Whether it's on your mind or not. It may be on my mind, but I don't remember! (Laughs) There's 365 days in a year, so 10 years is about 3600 days. Twenty years is about 7200 days. I'm 62 so 20 years, 7200 days, that's not a lot of time—if you get 7200. You don't know how many you're going to get. You just try to do the best you can with what you have and enjoy it.

AP: This year marks the 25th anniversary of "Malcolm X. " Like him, you're the son of a preacher. Do you feel as though you've followed in your father's footsteps at all?

Washington: For a time, it sent me in another direction. That can be a pattern for preacher's son. I had to go to church, so it wasn't fun. I didn't know anything different. Being a minister's son, having grown up in the church and learned the cadence, it was probably easier to play that part. I had some idea of different rhythms.

AP: I suspect you'd be good at the pulpit.

Washington: Well, it's not performance-based if you mean what you say. And you better mean what you say. My father did. He believed it with every fiber of his being. He was a man of God and we share that. For him, the pulpit was wherever he was. My father was a minister and my mother owned a beauty shop. So that seems like perfect breeding ground for an actor. That covers a lot!

AP: Many expected you to win your third Oscar in February, not Casey Affleck. Were you surprised?

Washington: I've been around a long time. I've been around a while. Not to say you don't have feelings or you're not hurt or you're not happy. But I've seen it all, I think. No, I haven't—not the way that show ended! I haven't seen that before!

AP: Is there you a film you saw at a young age that changed your life?

Washington: "Super Fly"! And "Shaft." When I was 14, 15, "Shaft" especially. Here was a guy—I didn't know who he was—but he walked around and he had his own theme music. He had a leather jacket on. He seemed to be in control and he was sticking it to the man. I remember seeing those movies and you were picking who you wanted to be: Super Fly or Shaft. I wanted to be Shaft.

INCREASED SECURITY
Police officers stand near the site where a large balloon of the character Olaf from "Frozen" is being inflated for the Thanksgiving Day parade in New York, Wednesday, Nov. 22, 2017. Sand-filled sanitation trucks and police sharpshooters will mix with glittering floats and giant balloons at a Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade that comes in a year of terrible mass shootings and a deadly truck attack in lower Manhattan. One of the nation's biggest outdoor holiday events, the parade makes its way through 2 ½ miles of Manhattan with marching bands, performers from Broadway hits, elaborate floats and signature giant balloons. The parade also will feature heavy security, including officers with assault weapons and portable radiation detectors among the crowds, sharpshooters on rooftops and sand-filled city sanitation trucks poised as imposing barriers to traffic at every cross street. AP

Anthony Gonzalez, and his mama, living a dream with 'Coco'

NEW YORK (AP)—Like the character he plays in the film "Coco," Anthony Gonzalez has always wanted to be an artist. But unlike the role he plays, the young actor has been lucky to have the full support of his Mexican family.

"My parents have always been there for me," said Gonzalez, one of five siblings born in Los Angeles to Mexican parents. "Without them I would not be in a Disney-Pixar movie."

"Coco," which opened Wednesday in the United States, is Pixar's first feature film with a minority lead character, and one of the largest American productions ever to feature an almost entirely Latino cast.

It takes place in Mexico during the holiday Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) and follows Miguel, a 12 year-old boy with the heart of a musician born in a family that has prohibited music for generations. After fighting with his family over not letting him make music, Miguel slips into a wondrous netherworld where he depends on his long-dead ancestors to restore him to the land of the living.

Gonzalez

"I never thought I'd be working in a Disney-Pixar movie at my age. I grew up watching these films!," Gonzalez, who recently turned 13, said in reference to hits like "Toy Story," ''Up" and "Inside Out." ''Being there at this age is a wonderful, very beautiful experience."

He may be starting his professional career as a tween, but his path to "Coco" started way earlier, singing Mariachi with his modest family at El Mercado de Los Angeles and competing in singing contests in his hometown, Mexico or Miami—all while his parents struggled to get their children, most of them aspiring musicians, training and financial help. Gonzalez and his two brothers attend the Colburn School. His two older sisters are now in college.

"I have no words to explain this. This is a dream—something you never expect," Lilian, the Gonzalez's matriarch, said of her son's participation in "Coco." ''You come to this country with so many dreams and what can I say? We struggle every day. To me, this is very hard because, honestly, this is something we never dreamed of, but we always wanted to support our children."

Lilian Gonzalez, who arrived in America more than 20 years ago and works in the cosmetology field, went to great lengths to support her children's calling.

"Every time we went to a competition I would lose my job," she said. "Anthony would tell me, 'You will be able to get lots of jobs, but I am going to be a kid only once.' Then, when they wouldn't go to the next round, we would cry and he would say, 'Everybody cries, there's nothing wrong with that! The important thing is to keep going.'"

Pixar started working on "Coco" about six years ago, but its release comes at a moment of tension between the governments of Mexico and the United States because of president Donald Trump's hardline immigration policies and his desire to build a wall in the border.

Lilian appreciates the cultural diversity and the support she has found in Los Angeles.

Report: UK police investigating 2nd Spacey sex-assault claim

LONDON (AP)—Police in London are investigating a second allegation of sexual assault against actor Kevin Spacey, British media reported Wednesday.

The Metropolitan Police force said it had received a complaint "of sexual assaults against a man" in 2005 in the London borough of Lambeth.

The force didn't identify Spacey as the alleged perpetrator. British police don't name suspects until they are charged.

But it said the same man was accused Nov. 1 of another assault in 2008, also in Lambeth. The suspect in that case has been widely named in British media as Spacey.

"Officers from the Child Abuse and Sexual Offenses Command are investigating," the force said in a statement.

A two-time Academy Award winner, Spacey was artistic director of London's Old Vic Theatre between 2004 and 2015.

The new allegation was made to police a day after the Old Vic said it had received 20 claims of inappropriate behavior by Spacey and it had encouraged 14 of the complainants to go to the police.

The theater launched an investigation into its former leader last month after American actor Anthony Rapp alleged that Spacey had climbed on top of him on a bed when Rapp was 14 and Spacey 26.

The Old Vic said it received the claims of inappropriate behavior in recent weeks, although the alleged incidents were said to have taken place from 1995 to 2013. It said many of the alleged incidents took place at the theater—located in the borough of Lambeth—and involved members of staff.

Spacey

Only one of the alleged victims reported the incidents at the time. The Old Vic said a "cult of personality" around Spacey had discouraged people from speaking out.

In the past few weeks Spacey has been fired from the Netflix TV series "House of Cards," was dropped by his talent agency and publicist and is being cut out of Ridley Scott's finished film "All the Money in the World."

Spacey apologized to Rapp Oct. 30 for "deeply inappropriate drunken behavior" and later released a statement saying he was seeking unspecified treatment. He has not commented on the London allegations, and the Old Vic says he did not respond to a request to participate in its investigation.

Carter 'shocked,' 'saddened' by singer's assault claim

NEW YORK (AP)—Nick Carter says he's "shocked and saddened" by accusations made by a singer who said he raped her about 15 years ago.

Melissa Schuman of the girl group Dream wrote in a blog post earlier this month that she was "forced to engage in an act against my will." She said the Backstreet Boy took her virginity when she was 18 and he was 22.

Carter

"I am shocked and saddened by Ms. Schuman's accusations. Melissa never expressed to me while we were together or at any time since that anything we did was not consensual," Carter said in a statement released Wednesday. "We went on to record a song and perform together, and I was always respectful and supportive of Melissa both personally and professionally."

Dream was signed to Sean "Diddy" Combs' Bad Boy Records in the earlier 2000s and produced the hit "He Loves U Not." Schuman wrote that Carter invited her to his apartment and assaulted her against her will. She said she "felt scared and trapped. He was visually and clearly growing very angry and impatient with me. I couldn't leave."

She said she tried to speak up after the incident, but that she didn't "have the money, the clout or access to an attorney who was powerful enough to stand up against my abuser's legal counsel."

"I feel I have an obligation now to come forward with the hope and intention to inspire and encourage other victims to tell their story. We are stronger in numbers," she wrote.

Carter said Wednesday "this is the first that I am hearing about these accusations, nearly two decades later."

"It is contrary to my nature and everything I hold dear to intentionally cause someone discomfort or harm," he said.

The Backstreet Boys launched a residency in Las Vegas this year and have concert planned for next year.

'I'M WITH THE PERV'

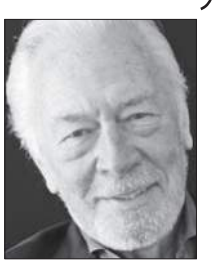
The New York Post, left, and New York Daily News are arranged for a photo, Wednesday, Nov. 22, 2017. The papers will often tackle the same topics on their front page, but only when the stars align do their colorful headline writers get the same idea. Both were reporting Wednesday on President Donald Trump's backing of Republican Alabama Senate candidate Roy Moore, who is accused of molesting a 14-year-old girl decades ago. Moore denies the charge.

Christopher Plummer has this to say about retirement: never

NEW YORK (AP)—At 87, Christopher Plummer isn't just working—he's busy.

He has five movies scheduled for release, including "A Christmas Carol" origin story called "The Man Who Invented Christmas." And he plans to work until the very end, literally.

"I love my work. I love what I do. And I'm so sorry for a majority of people who do not like their jobs, and can't wait to retire, which of course, is death. I'll never retire. I hope to drop dead on-


Plummer

stage. That's what I really want to do."

Plummer, who plays Ebenezer Scrooge in the film, recently toured a Charles Dickens exhibit at the Pierpont Morgan Library in New York. Plummer admits that Dickens, especially "A Christmas Carol," was a big part of his upbringing.

"All my family had grown up on Scrooge, and some of them had actually seen Dickens lecture and tell stories. So you took it for granted that it was part of Christmas cheer," Plummer said.

Landlord questions tenant's claim that he sleepwalks

DEAR ABBY: I am a man who owns a large four-bedroom home, and I have two tenants. One pays the rent on time, helps with cleaning and yard work, and is an all-around great roommate. The other has been here for four months, has never paid his rent on time and always disappears when we must clear off the driveway or do yard work.

The major problem I have with this guy is he sleepwalks—at least he claims he does. He opens doors at night. Some mornings I have found the front door or garage door wide open.

Additionally, he raids the refrigerator late at night. He claims he doesn't realize he's doing it. It's really annoying to find food I prepared the night before to take to work has been eaten.

I have spoken to him about it on numerous occasions, and he claims that he can't control his sleepwalking. I feel he should have told me about his issues prior to signing the lease. None of the references he gave mentioned his sleepwalking.

Is it considered a disability? Would I be discriminating against a disability if I chose to not renew his lease because of his sleepwalking?

LANDLORD IN WISCONSIN

DEAR LANDLORD: Because doors are being left open, it might be in your interest to install inexpensive security cameras. Sleepwalking (and sleep eating) can be symptoms of a sleep disorder, or possibly be caused by certain sleep medications. If your tenant is unaware of this, he should be informed and advised to be evaluated at a sleep disorder clinic.

Because he doesn't pay rent on time or do other things expected of him, you may not be obligated to renew his lease. My advice is to talk to a lawyer about how—and whether—you can get rid of this tenant.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My ex-mother-in-law, "Blanche," takes my 14-year-old daughter, "Grace," shopping often. I was grateful at first, but now she buys her anything she wants.

Grace has a high school dance soon, and I was looking forward to shopping with her. But before I could go, Blanche took her and bought her a $299 dress. I wasn't consulted because Grace knew I would've said no. She's a freshman and that's just way too much money to spend.

I asked them to take the dress back, and Blanche said OK. A week later I called her to explain why I said no, but instead of listening, she told me it was her Christmas and birthday present for Grace, and she wasn't taking it back.

My daughter never spends that kind of money. Grace said she was keeping the dress, and I told her she was not wearing it. How do I explain this to my daughter who has become self-entitled because of her grandmother?

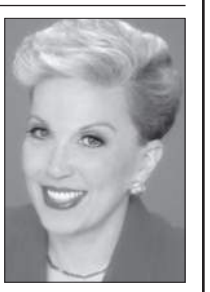
ANYTHING SHE WANTS

DEAR ANYTHING: You have already explained it to your daughter. You told her it was too much money to spend. The problem isn't just Grace, it's also your ex-mother-in-law. You are Grace's mother, and your wishes should have been respected. I don't blame you for being angry.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

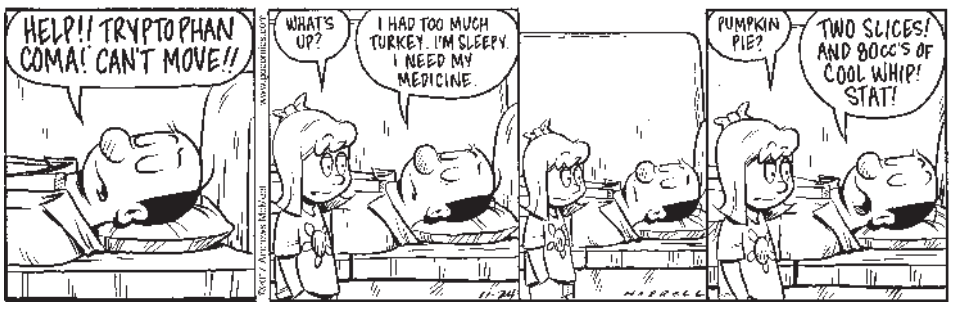
WHAT'S THIS STORY YOU'RE GOING TO READ ME, DAD? IT DOESN'T HAVE ANY ROMANCE IN IT, DOES IT?
UH...
EDIT IT OUT IF IT DOES. I HATE ROMANCE. DOES IT HAVE ANY BORING DESCRIPTION IN IT?
WELL...
SKIP IT IF YOU SEE ANY. I LIKE MY STORIES FAST AND GRIPPING.
IT DOESN'T HAVE A MORAL, DOES IT? I HATE BEING TOLD HOW TO LIVE MY LIFE. SKIP THE MORAL, TOO, OK?
DOES HIS MAJESTY PREFER COLOR PICTURES, OR BLACK AND WHITE?

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

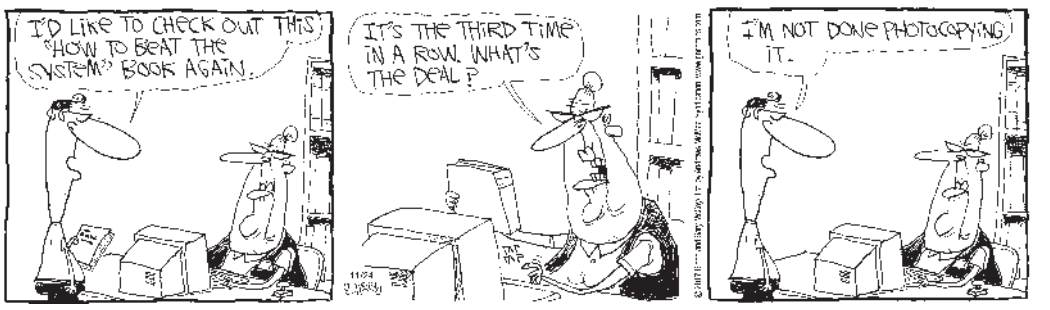
Adam@Home

By Bryan Basset


HELP!! TRYPTOPHAN COMA! CAN'T MOVE!!
WHAT'S UP?
I HAD TOO MUCH TURKEY. I'M SLEEPY. I NEED MY MEDICINE.
PUMPKIN PIE?
TWO SLICES! AND 80CC'S OF COOL WHIP! STAT!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


I'D LIKE TO CHECK OUT THIS "HOW TO BEAT THE SYSTEM" BOOK AGAIN.
IT'S THE THIRD TIME IN A ROW. WHAT'S THE DEAL?
I'M NOT DONE PHOTOCOPYING IT.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

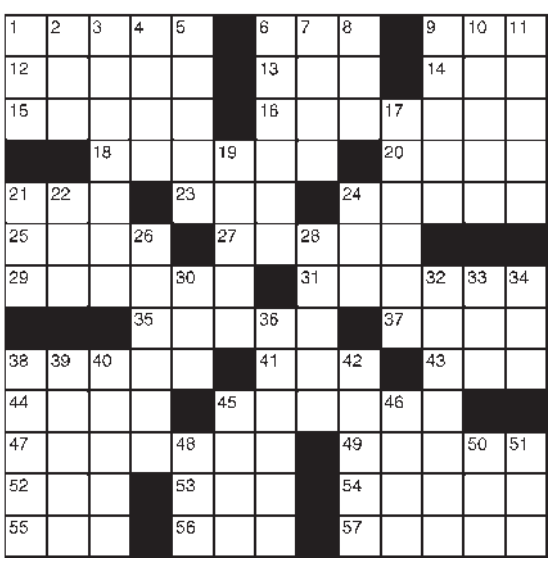
ACROSS
1 Chess soldiers
6 Leary's drug
9 — de mer
12 Concur
13 Jurist Lance
14 Lupino of film
15 Bizarre
16 Upscale British car
18 Fight furiously
20 Robust
21 Animation frame
23 Homer's neighbor
24 Gold digger?
25 Utah city
27 "It's — never!"
29 Theatrical fog source
31 Without a contract
35 Nymph pursuer
37 Poi base
38 Out of practice
41 Enterprise letters
43 Cold and damp
44 Writer Rice
45 Fingerpaints
47 "Oklahoma!" actress Jones
49 Embedded spies
52 Bit of advice
53 Capote nickname
54 1899 fighters
55 Mimic
56 Weir
57 To date

DOWN
1 Dog's foot
2 Bio stat
3 Chicago's — Field
4 Infamous emperor
5 Auto style
6 Primitive urge
7 Editor's "keep it"
8 Mafia boss
9 La Scala city
10 "Skyfall" singer
11 Tier
17 Desire for drink
19 Doctrine
21 Massachusetts cape
22 Mess up
24 Calendar abbr.
26 Greenhouse sprayer
28 Not as good
30 Low isle
32 Garnishing sprig
33 Notable time
34 Farm female
36 "Delicious!"
38 Bob Marley, for one
39 Square
40 Marsh bird
42 Ballroom dance
45 Antitoxins
46 Aussie hoppers
48 British "Inc."
50 Before
51 Former flier

Solution time: 25 mins.

C	A	L	F		A	R	K		A	G	R	A
R	I	A	L		P	E	N		T	R	A	P
O	D	I	E		E	V	E		W	A	K	E
C	A	R	E	E	R		E	M	O	T	E	S
			T	R	I			E	R	E		
Y	A	P	S		T	H	A	N	K	F	U	L
U	R	I			I	O	S			J	N	R
P	E	A	C	E	F	U	L		S	L	O	T
			T	O	A			O	R			
C	H	E	R	U	B		N	E	E	S	O	N
O	A	F	S		E	G	G		P	E	R	U
B	L	J	E		N	R	A		P	E	S	T
B	E	I	T		D	R	S		F	R	O	S

Yesterday's answer 11-24



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Sarah Hyland, 27; Katherine Heigl, 39; Colin Hanks, 40; Pete Best, 76.

Happy Birthday: Consider new ways to use your skills. Experimentation should be one of your main criteria this year. Trying new things and making new acquaintances will be a learning experience that will help you move forward in life. Engage in what moves you and spend time with those who contribute to making your life easier and your goals doable. Your numbers are 12, 18, 22, 27, 33, 37, 45.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Get involved in activities that are challenging but satisfying. Too much of anything or anyone will leave you feeling frustrated. Constant change and new endeavors will help deter you from spending time brooding over past regrets and failures. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Problems with partnerships will surface if you let your emotions override common sense. Listen carefully and deduce what your best course of action is before you take action. Offering alternatives, incentives and positive input will help your cause. ✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Take what you know and put it to the test. Work, money and getting ahead are featured as long as you don't let your emotions interfere with getting things done on time and to specification.✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Be careful when dealing with joint ventures. Don't offer money in order to make an impression. Simple pleasures will be just as effective when trying to impress others. If someone wants more than that, you should question his or her motives. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Tow the line when it comes to maintaining balance and integrity within important relationships. Do your part and don't let anyone get away with taking advantage of you. Social events will expand your knowledge as well as your friendships. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Make positive changes at home. Getting along will be half the battle when it comes to accomplishing things. A willingness to do your part will help you avoid a confrontation with someone demanding. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Plan something special. Host an event with a friend who shares your interests. A short trip will encourage you to take up a new pastime and could lead to an interesting encounter with someone you find quite special. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Expect to experience a sensitive issue when dealing with a peer, neighbor or relative. Listen attentively before you issue a response that may endanger your relationship. Offer compassion and understanding. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Don't waste time pondering what to do next. If you aren't enthusiastic and proactive when it comes to work, money and getting ahead, you may miss out on an opportunity that only comes along once in a lifetime. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Be aware of what everyone around you is doing. Avoid anyone who shows traits of inconsistency or overindulgence. Avoid getting involved in someone else's problems or you may end up being accused of meddling. Update your look. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Stay calm and take the time to monitor what's going on around you before you react. Too much of anything will lead to trouble. Avoid senseless spending and indulgent behavior. Work quietly on self-improvement instead of starting nonproductive discussions. 3 stars

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* You'll have an interesting way of looking at a situation, but it's unlikely it will lead to productive insight. Be willing to compromise if you want to get things done on time. Make love, romance and self-improvement your priority. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are experimental, unique and idealistic. You are futuristic and excessive.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

8			5			2		
					3			
		9		7				8
4				9	7		1	
		8				9		
	7		8	6				5
6				5		4		
			6					
		1			4			2

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 11/24

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

2	9	8	5	6	3	1	7	4
5	1	6	8	4	7	3	2	9
7	3	4	1	2	9	8	6	5
6	5	9	3	7	2	4	1	8
8	7	3	9	1	4	6	5	2
1	4	2	6	8	5	7	9	3
4	6	1	2	5	8	9	3	7
3	2	7	4	9	6	5	8	1
9	8	5	7	3	1	2	4	6

Difficulty level ★★★ 11/23

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

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A	A	U	I	N	E	E	R	G	R	A	Z	E	U	E
R	U	T	D	L	W	H	I	T	I	S	H	E	T	C
N	O	T	E	W	L	O	R	T	N	O	C	T	D	E
A	O	S	U	R	O	A	R	Y	E	R	G	A	O	P
T	P	C	E	M	P	R	T	B	L	T	R	P	O	T
I	E	P	T	T	N	I	M	E	A	I	O	U	R	A
O	A	A	L	U	T	L	L	S	M	U	L	P	S	C
N	R	L	T	E	R	E	E	L	O	R	L	E	U	L
I	S	E	T	T	S	N	S	A	A	F	E	S	M	E
P	H	S	K	R	A	B	A	H	V	R	D	T	M	G
S	R	I	N	S	E	C	T	L	T	E	S	S	E	R
I	U	G	N	I	D	I	H	O	L	E	S	G	R	E
L	B	R	A	N	C	H	E	S	P	R	I	N	G	M
K	S	E	I	T	I	V	A	C	L	A	R	V	A	E

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Apples, Attach, Autumn, Barks, Branches, Brown, Budworms, Carnation, Caterpillars, Cavities, Control, Eggs, Emerge, Fruit, Graze, Green, Grey, Hiding, Holes, Insect, Larvae, Leaves, Male, Metallic, Nocturnal, Ornamental, Outdoors, Pale, Pears, Pests, Pupate, Receptacle, Rolled, Rosettes, Shrubs, Silk, Spin, Spring, Summer, Trees, Whitish

Yesterday's Answer: Eyes

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RFP18-CHCC/KCHC-004

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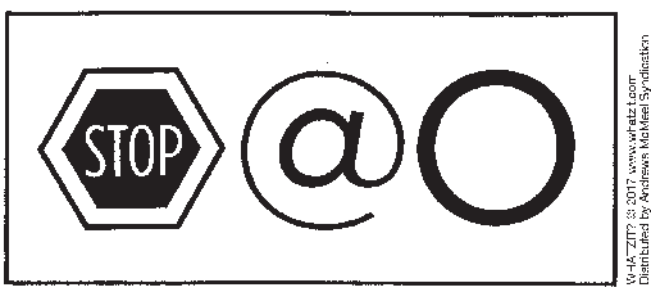

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Mariners set eyes on Japanese star Ohtani

SEATTLE— Mariners general manager Jerry Dipoto, debuting a new weekly podcast with club broadcaster Aaron Goldsmith on Wednesday, made no effort to hide his team's eagerness to recruit Shohei Ohtani now that there's a posting process in place to allow the Japanese two-way star to pursue a Major League career.

Dipoto said the Mariners have been preparing their pitch for the 23-year-old Ohtani for more than a year now, and the GM believes the franchise's history with Japanese players could be a significant factor.

In the wide-ranging podcast, Dipoto said the club would be willing to play designated hitter Nelson Cruz in the outfield several times a week to open a spot for Ohtani to hit next season if he signed with the Mariners. Dipoto acknowledged last week's trade of hard-throwing relief prospect Thyago Vieira to the White Sox for international bonus money was made largely with the goal of accumulating more money to compete for the Japanese star.

The Mariners have $1.55 million in international bonus money now available, which is below the $3.5 million of the Yankees and Rangers, but more than the vast majority of Major League teams. Dipoto noted Ohtani seems motivated by more than just cash, but said he'll continue pursuing every avenue possible, including further trades for slot money.

"We're not going to leave a stone unturned in the efforts to do it again if the opportunity arises," Dipoto said. "We'll be responsible in how we do it, but we understand this is a one-time buying opportunity and you have to be prepared.

Dipoto, who personally scouted Ohtani in Japan in September, said the Mariners will put the full-court recruiting press on as soon as possible.

"We have spent most of the past year preparing for this moment," Dipoto said. "Whether it's written presentations, something aesthetic for him to touch and feel ... we've put together a film on the merits of Seattle and the Mariners. And we're hopeful at some point we get to sit down in the same room."

The Mariners have had at least one Japanese player on their roster every year since 1998, including standouts Ichiro Suzuki, Hisashi Iwakuma, Kenji Johjima and Kazuhiro Sasaki, as well as Japanese ownership.

"The history of the Japanese player in Seattle has been so celebrated and some of the greatest players in our franchise's history have been from Japan," Dipoto said. "There is an attraction there. There has to be, for a player who is as respectful of those who came before him as Shohei Ohtani appears to be.

"That is a positive in our favor, especially since all those players have been willing to assist us in the recruiting process, among others. We're not joking around. We're bringing the big guns. We're bringing the 'A' game. When we sit down, we'll be sitting down with very notable faces and that is a part of what we want to sell.

"We want to sell the Seattle experience and what it means to the Japanese-Americans, our culture and how this organization has trended so positively when we have the star Japanese player. And make no mistake, this is a star Japanese player. He's gifted. He's going to make some team a lot better."

Just how good is Ohtani?

"I've seen players hit a ball 500 feet and players throw a ball 100 mph," Dipoto said. "I've just never seen one player do both of those."

AP

Japanese baseball sensation Shohei Ohtani is cleared by Nippon Professional Baseball to sign with a Major League Baseball team after the 2017 season.

Mariota eager to play again, prove 4 interceptions fluke

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)— Marcus Mariota finally has done something in the NFL that the Tennessee quarterback never managed before in his career. Not in college at Oregon while winning the Heisman Trophy , nor in high school back in Hawaii.

He saw defenders intercept four of his passes in the same game.

And it's been as painful as anyone could expect. Making it worse? All those interceptions coming on a Thursday night to add extra days to Mariota's wait before the Titans (6-4) visit Indianapolis (3-7) on Sunday.

"I would say I'm anxious," Mariota said Wednesday. "I think the competitor in me wants to prove that it was a fluke and that I'm better than that. Obviously, you can learn from it, make smarter decisions with the football. Yes, I'm ready to get back out there."

With the four interceptions in the 40-17 loss in Pittsburgh , Mariota already has 10 this season, two more than the eighth touchdown passes he's thrown. The 10 interceptions through his nine games already match what Mariota had through 12 games as a rookie and is one more than he had in 15 games last season.

Titans coach Mike Mularkey said the interceptions in Pittsburgh weren't all Mariota's fault.

"Whether it's been pressure, had more pressure, more blitz, more making him move, more guys needing to make plays, more guys being where that ball, like (in Pittsburgh)," Mularkey said. "That's the thing about zone coverage ... they just happen to be in the right place in the right time and that's kind of what happened with some of his interceptions."

A couple of interceptions simply sailed on Mariota this season, like the first one in Pittsburgh that went over wide receiver Rishard Matthews' head. Rookie wide receiver Corey Davis took the blame for two interceptions.

Mariota said Davis doesn't have to say that at all because he's the quarterback throwing the ball.

"Really when it comes down to it, if I can be smarter with the football," Mariota said. "I think every quarterback when they're sitting back there thinks they can make every throw, and sometimes it's better to either take off and maybe get a few yards or even get a sack. Those are things that I learned and I'll continue to get better at them."

The Titans have given Mariota more responsibility at the line of scrimmage to switch plays. But Davis, the fifth pick overall out of Western Michigan, has only played five games this season due to a hamstring injury, and veteran Eric Decker didn't join the team until training camp.

The combination has Mariota ranked 27th among NFL quarterbacks with a 79.9 passer rating; 20th with 2,089 yards passing; and tied for 29th in TD passes. Yet Mariota has led the Titans on three game-winning drives this season.

Matthews said it's impressive how Mariota bounces back as a competitor.

"Whether it's going good or bad, he's pretty even-keeled," Matthews said. "And his only focus is to go out there and put us in the best position to make plays and make the plays that are there."

Mariota should have a chance to bounce back against a Colts defense that ranks 30th, allowing 274.5 yards passing per game.

Colts coach Chuck Pagano has seen Mariota as much as any NFL coach, and he sees a quarterback looking more comfortable and making good decisions despite the performance in Pittsburgh. Pagano said everyone has some struggles in the NFL.

"That's how it is in the National Football League," Pagano said. "He had a tough day against the Steelers, and you've got to credit the defense and things like that. He's making great decisions, he's a great manager, competitive guy, we know what an athlete he is."

Day encounters late trouble, still among Australian Open leaders

SYDNEY (AP)— Jason Day's first tournament round in Australia in four years was a 5-under 66 to put him among the leaders early Thursday at the Australian Open.

Day's round came unhinged late with a double-bogey six on the par-4 eighth hole, his second-last of the day. He hit his tee shot into the trees on the left, hit back out to the fairway, missed his approach to the green and then couldn't get up and down.

"That was brutal," Day said of the 440-meter hole that played into gusting winds.

But Day recovered quickly to birdie his last to sit three strokes behind fellow Australian and early leader Cameron Davis, who started on the first, had six front-nine birdies and shot 63 at The Australian Golf Club.

In between the two was Australian Taylor MacDonald, who shot 65.

"It was a pretty solid round, I didn't miss many fairways, I didn't miss many greens," Day said. "I'd give myself a seven or eight out of 10. I think it's definitely out there to shoot a deep one, but that's kind of the thing, you almost need to come out and capitalize when there's no wind."

Defending champion Jordan Spieth, attempting to win the Australian Open for the third time in four years, was off to an inconsistent start in the afternoon when the winds were picking up. He bogeyed his first two holes, had two birdies then added another bogey over his first six holes.

The Sydney-born Davis played most of this season on the Mackenzie Tour in Canada and will attempt to secure his Web.com card in the final round of qualifying from Dec. 7-10 in Chandler, Arizona.

"Everything went to plan," Davis said. "I got off to a great start. I was hitting my spots and was able to keep it together on the back nine."

Brad Shilton had the first ace of the tournament, using a 5-iron for a hole-in-one on the par-3, 172-meter 11th, his second hole of the day. Australian veteran Geoff Ogilvy, the 2006 U.S. Open winner, shot 69. He and Rod Pampling (68) played the first round with Day . Day's mother, Dening, who is recovering from lung cancer surgery, followed him around the course.

"It's great to see her out and looking healthy, because at the start of the year it didn't look so well. I haven't been able to play in front of her a lot as a professional , so it would be really nice to be able to try and win this one for her," Day said.

Westbrook's 34 points lead Thunder past Warriors

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—Russell Westbrook said in the buildup before playing ex-teammate Kevin Durant and the Golden State Warriors that it was just another game.

His play said otherwise.

The reigning MVP scored a season-high 34 points and added 10 rebounds and nine assists to help the Oklahoma City Thunder roll past the Warriors, 108-91 on Wednesday night.

It was Oklahoma City's first win over Golden State since Durant left the Thunder to join the Warriors after the 2015-16 season. Golden State won all four meetings last season by an average of nearly 20 points.

Westbrook, who usually is animated anyway, was more talkative on the court than usual. At one point in the third quarter, Westbrook and Durant went forehead to forehead and were called for double technicals. Westbrook downplayed the incident later.

Heat 104, Celtics 98

In Miami, Goran Dragic scored 27 points, Dion Waiters had 26 with a pair of big 3-pointers in the final minutes and the Miami Heat held on to beat Boston, snapping the Celtics' 16-game winning streak.

Tyler Johnson scored 16 points for Miami, which had an 18-point lead cut to one in the final moments. The Heat shot 49 percent and outrebounded the Celtics 48-37.

Kyrie Irving scored 23 points for Boston. Jayson Tatum added 18, and Jaylen Brown and Marcus Morris each had 14.

Cavaliers 119, Nets 109

In Cleveland, LeBron James shook off a blow to the face and scored 23 points in the fourth quarter -- including 18 straight for Cleveland—and the Cavaliers beat Brooklyn for their sixth straight victory.

James needed stitches in the third quarter to close a gash above his lip that drew blood. He punched back at the Nets in the fourth and finished with 33 points.

With the Cavs up 100-99, James began his one-man show with a pair of free throws. He dropped in a couple left-handed shots and then drained two 3-pointers -- the last a step-back with 55 seconds left to give Cleveland a 118-107 lead.

James' solo performance enabled the Cavs to avenge a 112-107 loss in Brooklyn last month.

Bucks 113, Suns 107, OT

In Phoenix, Khris Middleton scored 40 points and Eric Bledsoe added 30 in his return to Phoenix, leading short-handed Milwaukee.

Devin Booker led the Suns with 23 points and hit a long 3-pointer as time expired in the fourth quarter to force overtime. But they had four of their season-high 29 turnovers in overtime and shot 1 for 8 in the extra period.

Booker missed a chance to tie it seven seconds left in the extra session, and Middleton made four free throws to seal the Bucks' ninth victory of the season.

Rockets 125, Nuggets 95

In Houston, Trevor Ariza had a season-high 25 points in Houston's victory over Denver.

Ariza was 7 of 10 from 3-point range. Chris Paul had 23 points and 12 assists, and James Harden added 21 points, nine assists and eight rebounds in limited action.

AP

Oklahoma City Thunder guard Russell Westbrook shoots as Golden State Warriors forward Kevon Looney (5) defends during the first quarter of an NBA basketball game in Oklahoma City, Wednesday, Nov. 22, 2017. Oklahoma City won, 108-91.

The Rockets have won nine of last 10 games, and beat Denver for the fifth straight time after sweeping the series 4-0 last season.

76ers 101, Trail Blazers 81

In Philadelphia, Joel Embiid had 28 points, 12 rebounds and two blocks and fast-starting Philadelphia handled Portland with ease.

Coming off a 21-point victory over Utah on Monday night, the 76ers scored the game's first 16 points and held a double-digit lead most of the way.

Hornets 129, Wizards 124

In Charlotte, Dwight Howard had 26 points and 13 rebounds, including a key block at the end of regulation and a crucial offensive rebound in overtime, to help Charlotte beat Washington.

Kemba Walker and Jeremy Lamb each had 24 points for the Hornets, who overcame a nine-point fourth quarter deficit. The Hornets wrapped up a perfect three-game homestand.

Clippers 116, Hawks 103

In Atlanta, Blake Griffin had 26 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists, Wesley Johnson scored a season-high 24 points and Los Angeles beat Atlanta to snapped a nine-game skid.

The Clippers had dropped 11 of 12, but they overcame a monthlong struggle of closing out opponents, taking the lead for good on a pair of free throws by Lou Williams with 4:11 left in the third quarter.

Pelicans 107, Spurs 90

In New Orleans, Anthony Davis had 29 points and 11 rebounds, Demarcus Cousins added 24 points and 15 rebounds, and New Orleans beat San Antonio.

Jrue Holiday scored 13 points and Darius Miller chipped in 13 on four 3-pointers for the Pelicans.

Pau Gasol had 17 points and LaMarcus Aldridge 16 in a largely frustrating night for San Antonio. The Spurs shot only 39.8 percent (35 of 88) and went 6 of 24 from 3-point range.

Mavericks 95, Grizzlies 94

In Memphis, Harrison Barnes banked in a 30-footer at the buzzer to lift Dallas past Memphis.

Officials reviewed the play to make sure the shot got off in time. Memphis suffered its sixth straight loss after squandering an 18-point lead in the first half.

Barnes led the Mavericks with 22 points, nine of them coming in the fourth quarter to help Dallas thwart a late Memphis comeback.

Timberwolves 124, Magic 118

In Minneapolis, Jimmy Butler tied a season high with 26 points, Taj Gibson scored a season-high 24, and Minnesota held off Orlando.

Jeff Teague had 22 points and 11 assists, and Andrew Wiggins added 20 points as all five starters scored in double figures to help the Timberwolves end a two-game slide.

Knicks 108, Raptors 100

In New York, Tim Hardaway Jr. scored a career-high 38 points, including 12 during a 28-0 run in the third quarter that sent New York past Toronto.

Kristaps Porzingis added 22 points and 12 rebounds for the Knicks, who outscored the Raptors 41-10 in the third. Kyle Lowry scored 25 points and DeMar DeRozan had 18 for the Raptors.

Italian pro joins Hell of Marianas

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Italian professional cyclist Paolo Caputo will also be a rider to watch in next weekend's 11th Hell of the Marianas.

He is expected to battle defending champion Jan Paul Morales of Team Philippine Navy-Standard Insurance for the men's pro title in the region's punishing 100-kilometer race around the island's steep and curvy roads on Dec. 2.

Caputo, who started as a competitive youth cyclist at 10 years old in Italy, came out of retirement in 2010 or 20 years after calling it quits in 1990 to concentrate with his studies. He now represents Hong Kong since moving there in 2002 and races under Team EVO Sports.

The now 43-year-old expat had a storied cycling career in Italy as he won over 100 trophies and was then a perennial Top 5 finisher when he was still racing for GSC Crispiano Pugliano, his hometown's cycling team. He was a five-time Puglia Region Road and Track points races titlist.

Caputo's latest achievement was finishing second to Jean Lou-Paiani of France in the overall road race in the Tour of Egat Kanchanaburi 2017 in Thailand. He only lost by seven seconds against the 28-year-old Frenchman.

Caputo also topped the 125-kilometer Stage 3 of the same race after clocking in at 3:15:55 and beating Lou-Paiani and Julius Mark Bonzo. He finished second to the French bet in the next stage, finishing 19 seconds behind. The Italian also placed seventh overall in the men's Individual Time Trial of the 2017 Hong Kong National Championships, while topping the third stage of the same road race. He finished first in Stage 2 of the 2016 edition of the Hong Kong event

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Italian professional cyclist Paolo Caputo is seen here negotiating a curve in one of the races he joined in Asia in 2013. Caputo will be competing in this year's Hell of the Marianas.

Caputo is also a three-time Hong Kong road race champion (2012-2014), aside from having similar podium finishes in different races in Thailand, the Philippines, and China.

Filipino bets Mark John Lexer Galedo, Viel Carino, Ronald Lomotos, El Joshua Carino, Lloyd Lucien Reynante, Angelico Ochoa, Japan's Daisuke Kaneko, and Hong Kong national riders Chi Ho Yuen, Kai Chun Wong, Sing Lam Wan, Tsun Hin Chiu, and Bryan Wong are also out to challenge Caputo and Morales for the men's pro crown.

TanHoldings Tennis Classic kicks off today

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The 9th Annual TanHoldings Tennis Classic will start today with over 60 players entered in the junior singles and doubles events of the annual competition.

The boys U14 singles drew the most participants with 12, including Seung Jin Paik, Richard Steele, Andy Kim, and Daniel Kang, who are seeded No. 1 to 4, respectively. Completing the roster are Hyun Min Cho, Andrew Chung, Isaac Heo, Joey Hong, Danny Lee, Seung Won Lee, Eun Bin Park, and Jun Wang.

In the boys U12 singles, the ranked players are No. 1 Jacob Jackson, No. 2 Anthony Gregoire, No. 3 Jonny Jackson, and No. 4 David Kwon. The four players will battle the division title against Alvin Bang, Jun Hwang, La Hunn Lam, Brandon Lee, Ru Ma Lee, Arkash Rai, and Nason Wessel.

The U10 singles had the least entries in the boys division with only Sam Cope, Eugene Kim, and Andy Lee on the list.

In the boys U18 singles, there are only six entries in Top 2 seeds Robbie Schorr and Ken Song, Allan Lee, Sean Lee, Sam Ryu, and Jimin Woo.

Six girls will also fight for the U18 singles crown with Isabel Heras and Tania Tan getting the 1-2 seeding. Maria Gregoire, Malika Miyawaki and siblings Conatsu and Coume Kang rounded up the competitors list.

In the girls U12, eight will attempt to clinch the division crown, including No. 1 seed J.C. Ferrer and No. 2 Anika Camacho. Others on the list are Helen Kim, Hye Jin Elliot, Serin Chung, Dana Lee, Hoo Wang, and Cathy Woo.

In the co-ed mini tennis, Irin Chung, Cojiro Kaga, Xavier Lee, William Lee, Savita Sikkel, Harry Song, and Lyssa Rae Steele made the competitors list.

Meanwhile, majority of the players entered in the singles play will also see action in the doubles events. Matches in both doubles and singles divisions will be played at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, Hyatt Regency Saipan, and American Memorial Park tennis courts.

UFC

From Page 36

and remember my roots and where I came from, " said the Guam-born, but Saipan-raised mixed martial arts fighter, who started with the CNMI's junior golf program together with Rev. Fr. James Balajadia before shifting to MMA.

He continues to stay on the path that his elders showed him and remembers his humble beginnings that endeared him not only to the people of the Marianas, but also to those who saw him fight elsewhere, like in Australia.

"The coolest part is how the Australian fans treated me. When I walked down, there were no boos. After the fight I received a lot of messages on social media. Everywhere there were positive reviews. It is so cool that they appreciate me with the way I act," said Camacho. "It's a representation of where I came from. I'm so glad people around the world are getting to know where the Marianas is, where Saipan is. I'm just happy that they're learning about Saipan through me, that's why I continue to do what I do best, fight hard and be as nice as I can."

He added that after he beat local bet Damien "Beatdown" Brown during their bout last Sunday in Sydney, Australian fans congratulated and thanked him for having a great fight that went to full three rounds. Their duel was the fourth for the night in a stacked 12-bout undercard. Camacho defeated Brown by split decision in the UFC Fight Night 121: Werdum VS Tybura at the Qudos Bank Arena to improve his record to 21-5.

The 28-year-old, who is married to 2012 Miss Guam Earth Sarah Filush Camacho, epitomizes the island living everywhere he goes. "I came from humble beginnings. As long as I have the island way of living, I'm good. I'm a very simple guy and I'm not flashy."

"If they ask me to wear a suit, and people need me to do it, I'm going to ask them if I can wear zoris," Camacho added with a laugh. "Suit and zoris, I'm up to that. I'm an Island Boy. As long as I have zoris, food, and board shorts and a tank top that I can go swim in, I'm good to go."

TrenchTech Saipan owner Cuki Alvarez, Purebred Jiujitsu Guam owner Steve Roberto, and Melchor Manibusan were at Camacho's corner when he fought in Australia. Alvarez is Team Crank's overall head coach, Roberto is Camacho's Jiu-jitsu instructor and MMA coach, while Manibusan helps him in wrestling and also in MMA.

"Cuki just brought Saipan with him in Australia. Everyone loved him. It was a very good experience for all of us," added Camacho, who recalled seeing Alvarez jump for joy once he was declared the winner of the fight.

BATANG

From Page 36

Brand last Saturday.

Fernando knocked in three triples and 11 points in the second quarter, turning the Silencer's 22-18 lead to a double-digit advantage at the break, 45-32. Fitial, on the other hand, scored the Silencer's last 5 points in the pivotal second canto for their baker's dozen margin.

Fitial and Fernando continued to do the damage for the Silencer in the second half, while Spigen failed to counter with its No.1 scorer Lerio Pagarao missing the start of the single-elimination playoffs.

Without its main gunner, Spigen fell behind by as much as 23 in the third period, 45-68, and midway in the final canto the game was already decided with the Silencer still holding on to a double-digit spread.

With the win, the Silencer set up a semis showdown against the victor of the Black Mamba-Team Sawi match, which will be played this weekend.

Meanwhile, the top-ranked Batang Bear Brand also gained momentum in the second quarter en route to a 19-point triumph over the last seeded Vendetta.

Ahead by only 4 after the first period, 24-20, Hal Spott, Ron Gamboa, and Elmer Esdrelon teamed up for 18 of Batang Bear Brand's 22 points in the second frame to up their lead to 46-32 at halftime.

Spott and company then kept going in the second half with the burly center cherry-picking in the paint to widen the gap and leave no room for a Vendetta comeback.

Vendetta, which made the playoff cut after making a late push in the regular season as it won its last five games, failed to mount a rally this time as it played sans shooter Ed Pangelinan.

Spott finished with 31 points, while Gamboa and Esdrelon contributed 25 and 14, respectively. James Dela Cruz had 22 markers on a losing effort for Vendetta.

With Vendetta out of the picture, Batang Bear Brand will next attempt to eliminate either Tropang Ridhors or White Haus to gain a finals berth. Tropang Ridhors and White Haus will duel in a win-or-go home match this weekend.

First Game

Batang Bear Brand 93 — Spott 31, Gamboa 25, Esdrelon 14, Ariar 13, Achas 4, Che 4, Lansang 2.

Vendetta 74 — Dela Cruz 22, Castro 18, Libuw 18, Sablan 9, Tenorio 7.

Scoring by quarters: 24-20, 46-32, 62-51, 93-74.

Second Game

Silencer 84 — Fernando 26, Fitial 20, Zapata 8, Estores 8, Usi 8, Culala 6, Arreza 4.

Spigen 68 — Tibayan 14, Berline 10, Tobias 10, Flores 10, Aniciete 6, Cortez 5, Umali 5, Sanciangco 3.

Scoring by quarters: 22-18, 45-32, 68-45, 84-68.

LONGUSKI

From Page 36

drei Chavez were the fastest U12 age division runners after logging in 52:33 and 56.30, respectively. Agape Christian School's Peter Wang and Saipan International School's Tania Tan topped the U17 with the former submitting 42:55 and the latter posting 48:59.

Taro Kubo and Heather Kennedy ruled the men's and women's 40-49 age category with times of 46:34 and 1:02:02, while multisport athlete Tyce Mister, who came in fifth overall, joined Sakiko Eda in the over 50 division winners list as they clocked in at 44:33 and 50:31, respectively.

All winners went home with turkeys for Thanksgiving Day, while raffle prizes—lunch buffets, brunch, beverages, and others—were given to lucky participants.

2017 Saipan Swim Club All Schools Swim Meet

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A middle school swimmer races in the 100m backstroke event during the 2017 Saipan Swim Club All Schools Swim Meet held last Saturday at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

Mt. Carmel School's Christian Villacrusis does the 100m breaststroke event.

Grace Christian Academy's Michael Miller competes in the 50m butterfly race.

An elementary school swimmer gets some air during the 50m freestyle event.

A swimmer gets ready at the starting block during one of the heats in the 50m freestyle event.

A Marianas High School swimmer breathes during the 50m freestyle race.

An elementary school student competes in the 50m butterfly.

Swimmers wait for the whistle at the starting block for the 50m freestyle event.

Mariners set eyes on Japanese star Ohtani

PAGE 32

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Westbrook's 34 points lead Thunder past Warriors

PAGE 33

Longuski makes winning return

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Keith Longuski hardly broke a sweat when he ruled the 33rd Annual Turkey Trot Mt. Tapochau Fun Run yesterday.

Longuski, who won in 2015 but skipped last year's event, broke away from the pack early to finish the race in 38:16. The Commonwealth Health Center physician assistant's record was almost a minute slower than his 37:28 mark two years ago.

A cool 77°F weather and gentle breeze greeted Longuski and the 146 other runners who took on the challenge of making the 4.2-mile (6.8 kilometers) uphill run from Lower Base near the Tanapag Harbor up to Saipan's highest point. This year's course became extra challenging with road repairs being done along Isa Drive going up to Capital Hill, while the usual trek up the 1,554-foot mountain remained rough and filled with potholes.

Charlie Sendin, the 2013 and 2016 men's open champion, was almost two minutes behind Longuski at 41:02 to place second overall and claim the 30-39 age group. His time last year, however, was a little faster as he checked in at 40:23.

Maury Widervaenders topped the women's open division with a time of 55:30, while Ayano Braxton duplicated Sendin's feat in the same age group after crossing the finish line at 54:17.

Youngsters Dylan Mister and 10-year-old Kaithlyn An-

See LONGUSKI on Page 34

JON PEREZ
Keith Longuski prepares to take on the uphill climb leading to the top of Mt. Tapochau during the 33rd Annual Turkey Trot Fun Run held yesterday.

JON PEREZ
Maury Widervaenders is on her way to a first place finish in the open division.

Batang Bear Brand, Silencer advance

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Batang Bear Brand and the Silencer eased their way to the semifinals of the 2nd Ali'i Blue Haus Invitational Basketball League after dominating their respective playoff opponents last Wednesday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Batang Bear Brand took the first Final Four seat following a 93-74 triumph over Vendetta in the curtain-raiser, while the Silencer also advanced after topping Spigen in the second match, 84-68.

Angelo Fernando, who missed the Silencer's last game (lost to Batang Bear Brand, 89-80,) in the regular season, was back in action against Spigen and made his presence felt in their easy win after firing 26 points. Kelvin Fitial also stepped up, chipping in 20 markers—a far cry from his 6 points in their defeat to Batang Bear

See BATANG on Page 34

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The Silencer's Kelvin Fitial, left, tries to dribble past the defense of Spigen's Bruce Berline during the fourth quarter of their playoff game in the IT&E-sponsored Ali'i Blue Haus caging last Wednesday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

After UFC win, 'Crank' stays grounded

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Frank "The Crank" Camacho, despite having achieved a local celebrity status and slowly getting recognition in the Ultimate Fighting Championship arena, continues to enjoy a simple life.

"I'm just very humbled and honored on where I am right now. This is now my career, my job. Now being a pro athlete, I know there's more pressure on my part to represent myself and family but most especially our islands," Camacho told *Saipan Tribune* in an exclusive interview.

"It is very cool and never did I know that coming from a small island, I could make a difference. I will just continue to make sure I work hard and have a good head on my shoulders. Don't let a little bit of fame get into my head

See UFC on Page 34

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Frank "The Crank" Camacho, second left, poses with, from left, Trench Tech's Cuki Alvarez, Melchor Manibusan, and Steve Roberto after his victory against Damien "Beatdown" Brown in the UFC Fight Night 121: Werdum VS Tybura at the Qudos Bank Arena in Sydney, Australia last Sunday.